

GAME PREVIEW
PENN STATE

5 QUESTIONS
AMEER Abdullah

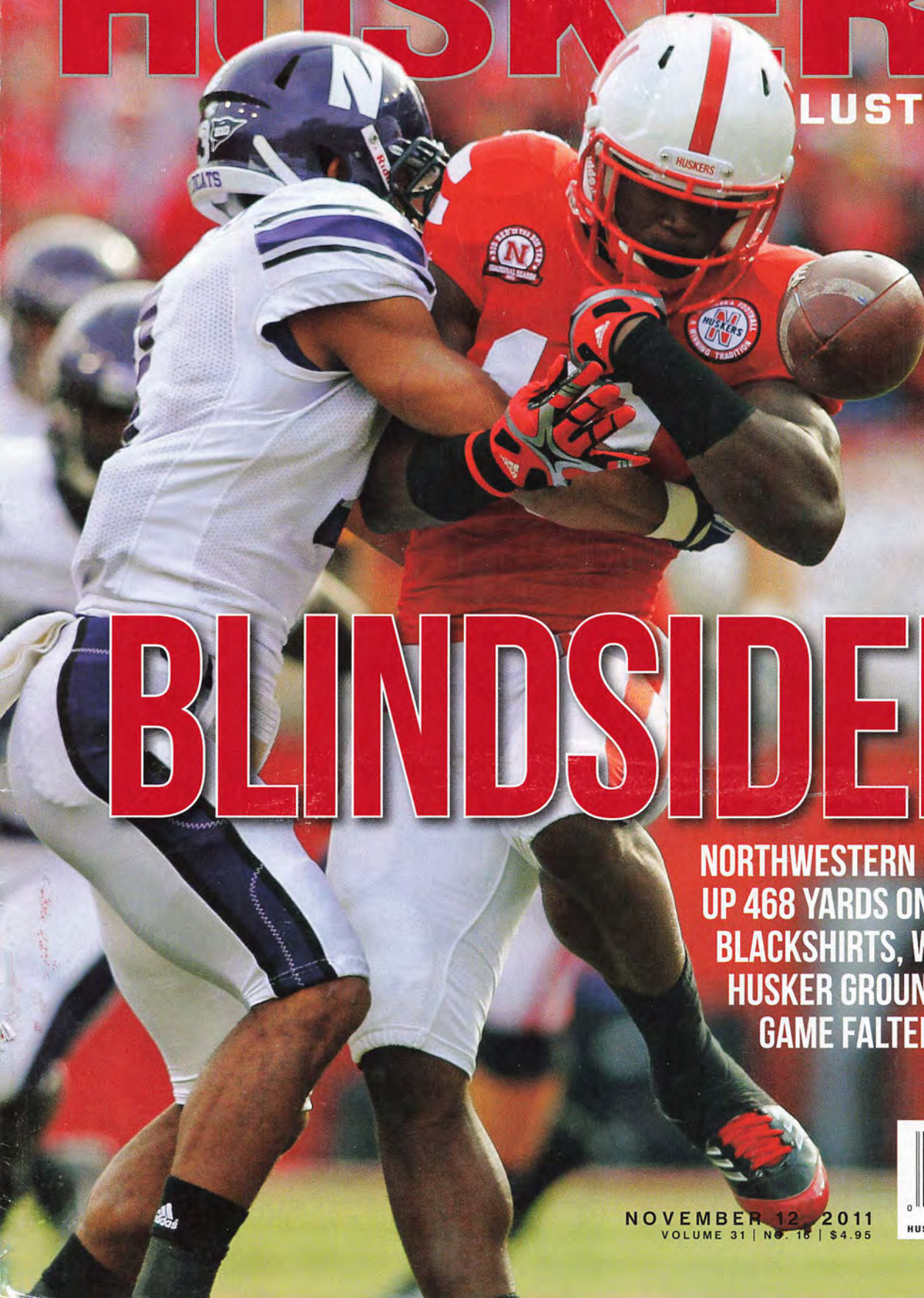
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THE ORIGINAL MAGAZINE DEDICATED TO NEBRASKA ATHLETICS

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NOVEMBER 12, 2011
VOLUME 31 | No. 16 | \$4.95



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NU suffers setback in title hopes despite Martinez's efforts

2011 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME	TV/SCORE
SEPT. 3	CHATTANOOGA	MEMORIAL STADIUM	2:30P.M.	W, 40-7
SEPT. 10	FRESNO STATE	MEMORIAL STADIUM	6:00P.M.	W, 42-29
SEPT. 17	WASHINGTON	MEMORIAL STADIUM	2:30P.M.	W, 51-38
SEPT. 24	@ WYOMING	LARAMIE, WYO.	6:30P.M.	W, 38-14
OCT. 1	@ WISCONSIN	MADISON, WIS.	7:00P.M.	L, 14-48
OCT. 8	OHIO STATE	MEMORIAL STADIUM	7:00P.M.	W, 34-27
OCT. 22	@ MINNESOTA	MINNEAPOLIS	2:30P.M.	W, 41-14
OCT. 29	MICHIGAN STATE	MEMORIAL STADIUM	11:00 A.M.	W, 24-3
NOV. 5	NORTHWESTERN	MEMORIAL STADIUM	2:30P.M.	L, 28-25
NOV. 12	@ PENN STATE	UNIVERSITY PARK, PA.	11:00 A.M.	ESPNA
NOV. 19	@ MICHIGAN	ANN ARBOR, MICH.	TBA	TBA
NOV. 25	IOWA	MEMORIAL STADIUM	11A.M.	ABC



ON THE COVER

Sophomore wide receiver Quincy Enunwa fumbles the ball at the Northwestern 19-yard line after making a 25-yard completion from Taylor Martinez. The fumble was one of two for Nebraska inside the red zone during the second quarter, as senior Rex Burkhead also fumbled on the goal line.

PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK



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NEXT ISSUE

Volume 31, Issue 17, the Penn State recap and Michigan preview will be mailed Monday, Nov. 14. Check for updates at hussersillustrated.com.

CHAMPIONSHIPS WON AT HOME

Nebraska relinquishes
control of championships
with home losses

I RECEIVED A NUMBER of messages after Saturday's unexplainable 28-25 loss to Northwestern. The messages, left by phone, text or tweet, were surprising. People were not irate. In fact, many weren't surprised by the loss.

People weren't surprised, because the loss was actually pretty easy to break down.

Nebraska couldn't stop the run, couldn't run the ball, was flagged six times and twice turned the ball over in the red zone. Nebraska was out-coached and out-played by a team that had lost five straight games, including a 21-14 setback to Army.

With the loss, Nebraska is no longer in control of its own destiny for a Big Ten title. In fact, for the Huskers to make a trip to Indianapolis, they must win their three remaining games, and hope for Michigan State to lose to at Iowa, at home against Indiana, or at Northwestern. Not impossible, especially since the Spartans nearly lost to Minnesota Saturday.

But Nebraska needs help. Otherwise it will be another year without a championship. And that fact is slowly crushing the spirit of Husker fans. It's been a lifetime since Nebraska held that Big 12 trophy after a win over Texas in 1999.

But there will be no trophy in Nebraska's future until Memorial Stadium returns to a place of despair for opponents.

Opponents used to dread coming to Lincoln. It meant they were going to get smashed in the mouth and limp out of town while Husker fans gave them a polite golf clap as they left the field.

Instead, at least one opponent each year (if not more), leaves town giving



Husker fans the golf clap. "Thanks for the hospitality. Thanks for the win," they say.

Sure Nebraska's home field advantage is still measurable – to the tune of a 52-17 mark over the past 10 seasons (2002-2011). A number of programs would sign up for that. But Nebraska isn't most programs. That number is embarrassing when compared to the previous 10 years (1992-2001), when Nebraska went 64-1 at home.

"That's not fair," apologists say. "Those were national championship contender teams." Isn't that the standard for the program? The previous 10 years were much of the same. From 1982-1991, Nebraska posted a 59-6 mark at home.

Overall, during a 40-year stretch, from 1962 through 2001, Nebraska was near-unbeatable at home, compiling a 225-26 home record.

Those days seem like a distant memory.

Bo Pelini is just 22-6 at Memorial Stadium with a 10-5 record in league games. Five of those six losses have come to unranked opponents and, after Saturday, a team with a losing record.

So what's the point of all this?

The process of winning championships starts by taking care of business at home. Until Pelini and his staff return Memorial Stadium to the juggernaut it once was, championships will continue to be hard to find. **N**

Send me your comments or story ideas to aaron@huskersillustrated.com.





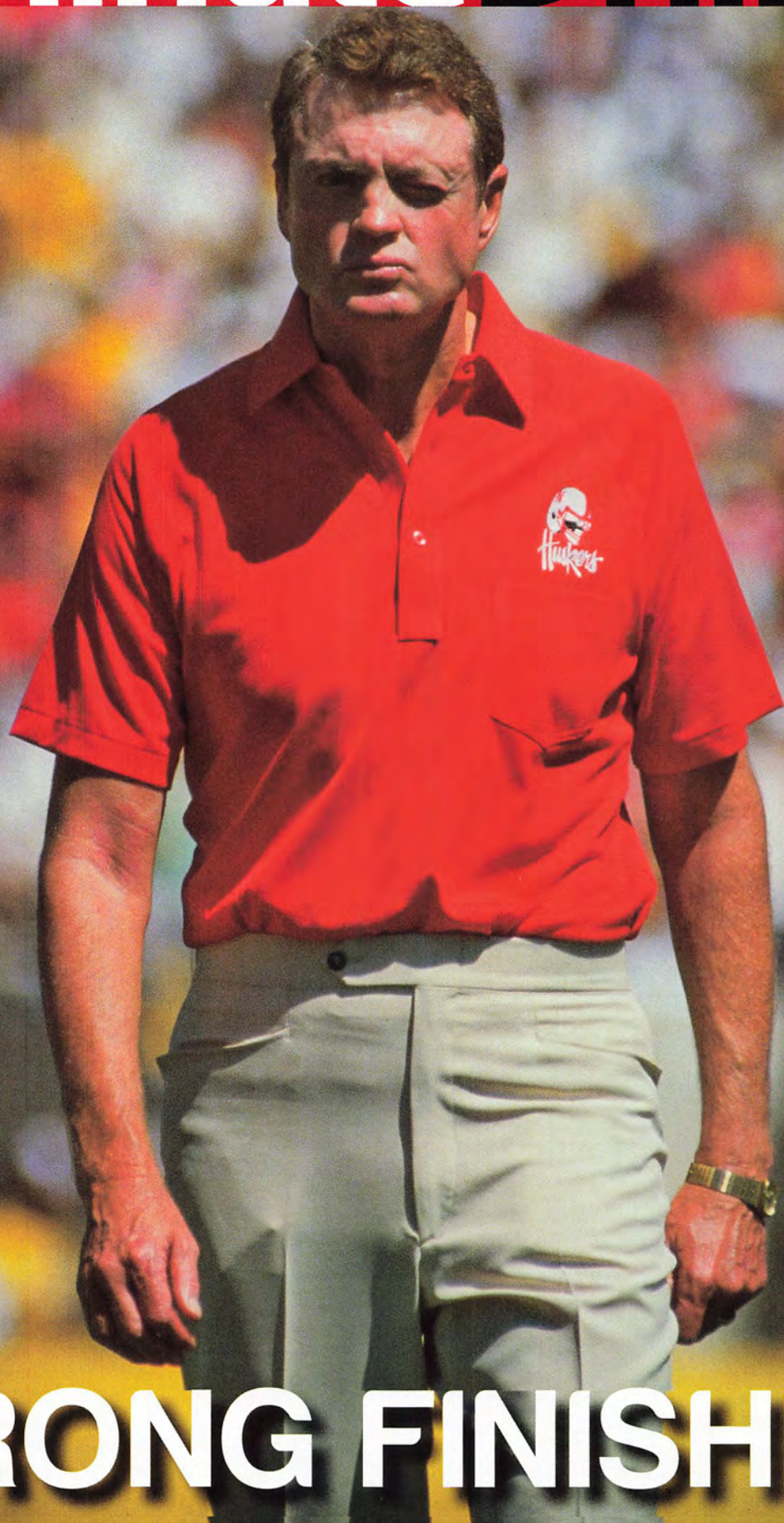
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STRONG FINISHES

BY MIKE BABCOCK

It's not how a team starts but rather how it finishes, except, of course, at the BCS level, where teams have to be consistent throughout the season. There's no margin for error. And when it comes to coaches, those who don't start strong, well . . . they won't be around very long.

Here's how Bo Pelini stacked up with his immediate Husker predecessors after 50 games:

	FIRST 50	NEXT 50
Bob Devaney (1962-72)	44-6	37-12-1 (retired)
Tom Osborne (1973-97)	38-11-1	40-10 (retired)
Frank Solich (1998-2003)	42-8	15-11 (fired)
Bill Callahan (2004-07)	27-22 (fired)	—
Bo Pelini (2008-present)	37-13	—

Pelini's teams have always finished the regular season strong, going 5-1 in the second half of each of his first three seasons, a reflection of his stay-the-course approach. After the Michigan State victory, which put the Huskers in control of their own destiny as far as the Big Ten championship game was concerned, Pelini again discussed that approach. "Honestly, we do not talk about it," he said of looking past the next practice, much less the next game. "What we talk about is what we can do today.

"Our approach on a Monday is no different than had we lost the other day. You can only control what's in front of you right now. Our guys' mindset is to look at the good things and learn from them and look at the things you need to do better. Hopefully, we can grow from the things we didn't do so well. You hope each week you make progress and get a little better."

After a victory in a game such as the one against Michigan State, involving "all the hype" and the divisional-title considerations, "the last thing you want to do is take a deep breath," said Pelini. "You want to put your foot on the gas pedal and keep going. That's a challenge for college students and kids that tend to read the Internet and papers. We have not arrived.

"We have a lot ahead of us to keep getting better."

HI'S TOP5

FIVE FROM PENNSYLVANIA



Dave Morock (pictured) was the starting monster back (strong safety) on the Huskers' first national championship team in 1970. He came from a "steel-mill family" in Clairton, Pa. Virginia Tech recruited him heavily, but Bob Devaney was the difference. He was "as fine of a man as I have come across in my life," Morock said many years later. "He really cared about me and my family. He'd go out of his way to ask, 'How's Rose?' Not just, 'How's your mom.' That's why I ended up at Nebraska."

When Devaney visited Clairton, "my mom got all the cups out without chips in them," said Morock. "It wouldn't have mattered what my choice was. Devaney recruited my mom."

Here are five other notable Huskers from Pennsylvania.

- 1 BEN GREGORY, HB (1965-66-67)**
UNIONTOWN
- 2 BARRY ALVAREZ, LB (1965-66-67)**
BURGETTSTOWN
- 3 FRED SHIREY, T (1935-36-37)**
LATROBE
- 4 DENNIS RICHNAUSKY, SE (1965-66-67)**
CLAIRTON
- 5 TED VACTOR (1963-64-65)**
BRIDGEPORT

One of Devaney's favorite jokes about "recruiting" moms ended with: The mom came to Nebraska but the son went to Missouri (or pick a school).



WOULD HAVE, EXCEPT...

Senior walk-on Kevin Thomsen got his first start at Nebraska in the second game against Fresno State when the Huskers opened with two tight ends. He didn't find out he would be on the field for the first play from scrimmage until just before the opening kickoff. He was on the kickoff return team, and graduate assistant Vince Marrow, who works with the tight ends, told him to

stay on the field.

Obviously, he couldn't have told his parents that four years of hard work had paid off.

"That's what my dad said, too, 'You didn't tell me you were starting,'" said Thomsen, who was just moved to tight end from defense a couple of days before the end of fall camp. "I was like, 'I didn't know. I just go out there for whatever plays they want me for.'"

Senior Lance Thorell on the paradox of special teams:

YOU HEARD IT

"You've got to be able to lay a hit, run down the field with your hair on fire. At the same time, you've got to play disciplined ball and you've got to do your assignment. Just effort and heart, that's what special teams come down to, wanting to be out there and wanting to drive your will into the other team."

MAN IN THE MIDDLE

Nebraska's middle linebacker has to understand the defense as well as or better than anyone else on the field. "Ideally, yes," said linebackers coach Ross Els.

"We would like in our system (for) our middle linebacker to make a ton of checks and make a lot of decisions based on what we're seeing from the offense and what our call is."

In some situations, however, one of the other linebackers makes the calls. When red-shirted freshman Trevor Roach stepped in for an injured Will Compton in the opening game against Tennessee-Chattanooga, Lavonte David made the calls, even with Roach in the middle.

"So it doesn't have to be the middle linebacker in our system," Els said. "But we would like it to be as much as possible because he is in the middle and he can talk to guys on either side."

There can be no margin for error. "I don't want to make it sound like we're so complex you can't do it," said Els. "But we expect every check to be perfect."

SIDELINES

PACKS A PUNCH

Early on, safety Daimion Stafford established a reputation as a hard-hitter. "I definitely wouldn't want to be hit by him," said fellow safety Austin Cassidy. "He's like a rocket coming down."



Defensive coordinator Carl Pelini saw that in watching tape of Stafford at Chaffey (Calif.) College. "Just as a casual observer, I'd say he's every bit the physical player I thought he was," Pelini said early in the season. "He's all over the field. He plays fast. And boy, can he bring it when he hits."

"He's a great tackler, and the thing... that's unique about Daimion is he's a very physical tackler and yet, he's also a great space-tackler. A lot of times, guys have great physicality if they've got a constricted space, but Daimion, he'll bring it in the open field. He doesn't miss many tackles."

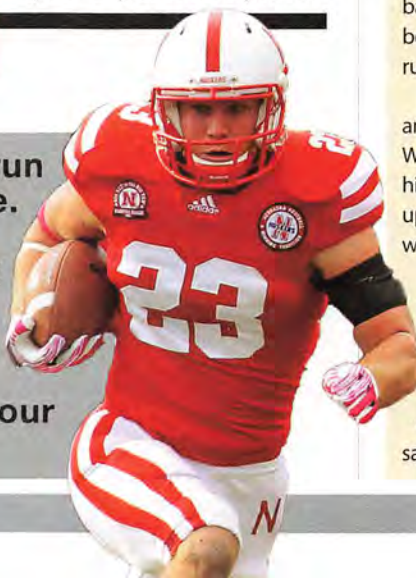
"And that's something that we saw on tape. That's why we recruited him so hard."

WILDCAT, YES

Redshirted freshman wide receiver Kenny Bell has a lot of respect for his quarterback. "I could never be Taylor Martinez. That's a lot of pressure," said Bell. Plus, "I can't throw the ball like he can. But I'd love to be in that Wildcat formation, running the zone read."

Bell played running back and took some snaps in a Wildcat formation during his high school career. But giving up running back to focus on wide receiver wasn't difficult.

In fact, he was recruited "for the most part" as a defensive back. So wide receiver is fine. "It was just, 'I want to play football and help us win any way we can,'" Bell said.



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TOUGH GUY, TEAM GUY

Redshirted freshman Chase Rome has stepped into the starting defensive tackle position held by Jared Crick and has done well, according to defensive line coach John Papuchis. "He plays hard. He's a tough guy. He brings that element to our football team," said Papuchis.

During the week before his first start at Minnesota, Rome was asked if he saw himself competing for the starting job. "Yes," he said. "But I don't think anyone's really worried about who's got that job. I think everyone needs to step up. We all need to work hard. We have

a huge void to fill.

"I mean, when you ask it like that, yeah, I do. But at the same time, if 'T-Mo' (Terrence Moore) plays, I'm happy. If Thad (Randle) plays, I'm happy. I don't care.

"Whatever we have to do to fill the spot where Crick was, because that's a huge blow, and my thoughts are with him and not really with 'Oh, who's starting now?'"

Randle, a sophomore, missed the Michigan State game with a knee injury, and his status for the remainder of the season hadn't been determined when this issue went to the printer.

PRE-MED, TOO

Sophomore walk-on Spencer Long has started every game at offensive right guard this season, after not playing at all as a redshirted freshman. "He's been working his butt off, and he deserves everything that he's getting," said fellow guard (and sophomore) Brent Qvale.

"He came in, you know, probably at what, 240 pounds, 250 pounds. Now he's up to close to 300 pounds... and he's playing great. So I'm really excited for him."

Qvale, a scholarship recruit, and Long were in the same class. And they're neighbors now. "So I've known Spencer and Jake (his twin brother) since I got here," Qvale said.

Both Spencer and Jake are pre-med majors.

"They're just normal guys who take way too hard of classes," said Qvale.

AWARDS CANDIDATE

Lavonte David, a semifinalist for both the Butkus Award and the Chuck Bednarik Award, was named the Lott IMPACT Player of the Week for his performance in the Huskers' 24-3 victory against Michigan State. David was credited with 13 tackles to increase his season's total to 77.

The senior from Miami, Fla., hasn't changed his approach. "I just keep doing the same old

thing, same old, same old; I mean, getting in the film room, working on things I need to work on, talking to coaches when I need to talk to them and just going by that," he said.

"And then after the week (of practice) goes on, kind of get better at stuff."

Continued improvement is the key. "You can't settle for less," said David. "You've just got to stay consistent, keep getting better any way you can."

ROLE MODEL

Brion Carnes is patient, a life lesson learned from his grandfather, James (Red) Carter. The redshirted freshman quarterback learned many life lessons from Carter, in fact.

"My grandfather always told me, always stay positive, don't always believe what everybody says and listen to the negativity," said Carnes. "Stay positive and believe in God, and he'll fight your battles."

"And that's what I'm doing."

The weekend Nebraska was off, following the Ohio State game, Carnes went home to Florida to be with his family after Carter's passing. "He was like a father-figure. He was like my dad. He pretty much raised me when I was younger," Carnes said. "I went home to go be with my family."

"My mom was taking it hard, so I had to be there for her."



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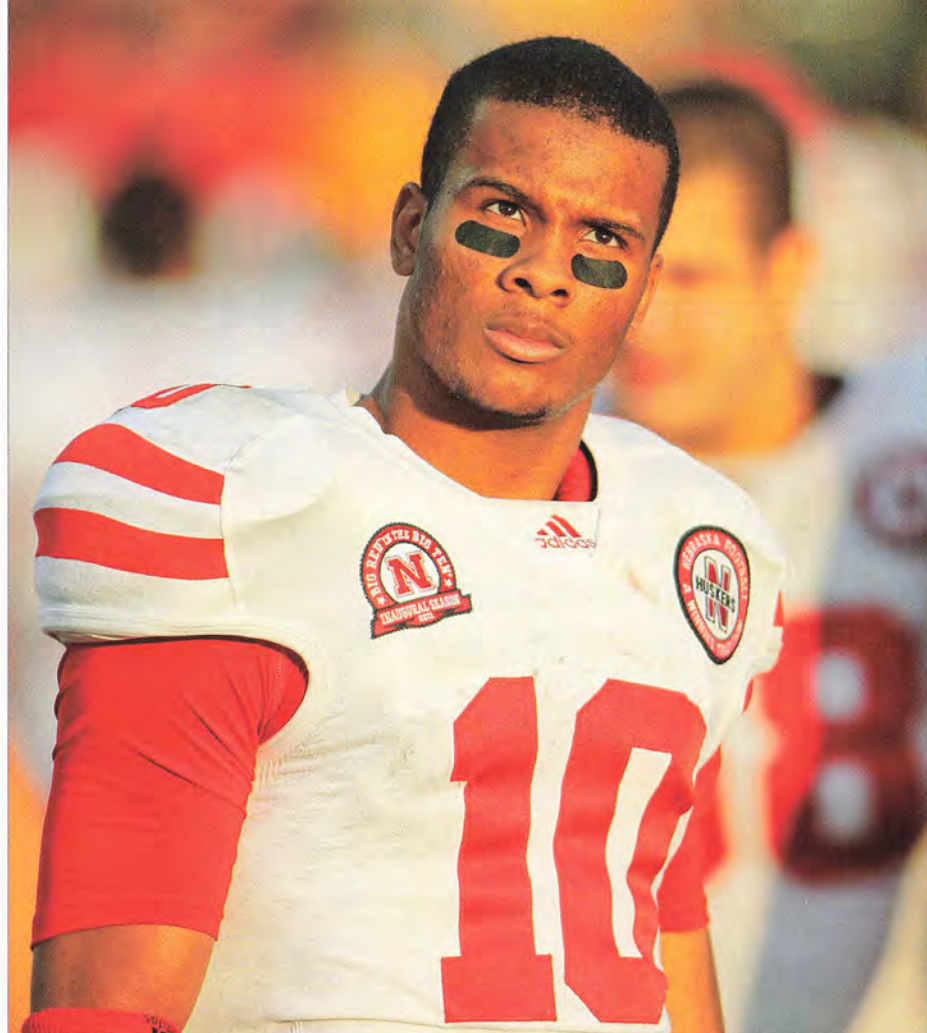


PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK

Hardest part, no question

Jamal Turner played quarterback in high school and was recruited as a quarterback. But he's a wide receiver now, which means blocking as well as catching passes.

Learning to block "was the hardest, hands down," said Turner, who's listed at 6-foot-1 and 180 pounds. "To this day, I'm still working on it, trying to improve it, blocking. I'm one of the smallest players on the field, and it's just so hard, trying to block these big, 230-pound

linebackers. But I'm adjusting.

"You've got to be physical. You've got to be tough. You can't just go in there, 'Oh, let me just stay in front of you.' You've got to go hit 'em in the mouth and then lock on, be real physical. You can be as big as a house, but if you're weak and your mind's not there, you're going to get beat every time."

IN FAVOR

Bo Pelini on NCAA

legislation allowing schools to provide student-athletes with as much as \$2,000 beyond room and board, books and tuition, to cover the cost of attendance: "I'm all for it because it will help the student-athlete. Like I said, a lot of our guys, it's not easy for a lot of them, especially for the ones who don't get a lot of help from home for whatever reason. I think it's a great thing."

FILED UNDER U

BLEEDING BY TIM SIEDELL **RED**

I knew there were bad men throughout history.

My textbooks taught me that. I knew there was starvation. I saw it on the evening news. And long before O.J. Simpson or Casey Anthony or whatever trial is going on right now that ends up being a mockery of justice, I had a vague sense that good didn't always triumph in the end. And I knew there was pure evil in the world. Because I heard the Bee Gees on the radio.

But I never felt the personal sting of injustice until middle school.

Oh, sure. There were the little things. Typical kid things that made me stomp off to my room and curl up in bed and wish the Iranians would take me hostage, too, because that would really show everyone. But for the most part, those slights were minor. This one was different.

If you're a sports fan, you maintain a mental filing cabinet full of triumphs and heartbreak. Two fans of the same team, of the same age even, might have vastly different mental files. For personal reasons, a game that one person thinks is fairly inconsequential is another man's relive-over-and-over memory because his jerk neighbor is a Missouri grad and wow, did that game ever shut him up.

In the category "Painful

Losses," you'll find a fairly large selection of mental folders neatly filed away in my head. I try to keep things well organized. There, you'll find the 1994 Orange Bowl loss to Bobby Bowden. Open it up and you'll probably find a few crushed beer cans from the self-medication that took place that night. You'll find a whole subcategory labeled "Texas." The Oklahoma losses are split between the subcategories of "Sooner Magic," and "No

If you look at the replay, he's so far out of bounds the usher in the stands asks to see his ticket.

Magic Needed." Ooops, here's the 1980 World Series between the Royals and Phillies. That should go over into the baseball section. And yeah, there's the 1984 Orange Bowl loss to Miami. See the worn corners? It's been pulled out a few times over the years.

But eventually, if you search

my brain filing system long enough, you'll find a dusty folder tucked away under the subcategory of "Unjust." It's the only folder filed under that heading. It'll be labeled September 1982. Inside is a faded picture of a quarterback dropping back to pass. Hard to tell if it's a color photo or black and white since he's wearing a Penn State uniform.

Husker fans know the game. The valiant comeback led by Turner Gill, with one of

the greatest drives in Husker history to take the lead with less than two minutes to play. The equally valiant drive led by Todd Blackledge, ending with two plays that would have been overturned in today's instant replay world.

The worst, of course, being a 15-yard pass to tight end Mike McCloskey. My goodness. He wasn't just out of bounds. If you look at the replay, he's so far out of bounds the usher in the stands asks to see his ticket. Slow the video down. McCloskey runs his pattern, buys a coke and hot dog from a vendor, participates in the wave, and then makes the catch.

Penn State would go on to win the national championship, of course. Nebraska would go on to win the rest of its games, finishing third. That ending. That injustice. It cost us a national championship.

My feverish middle school brain could barely process it all. Was the referee, who was standing right there, crooked? A Huskerphobe? The kind of guy who called into the radio station and requested ABBA? It wasn't just unfair. It was unjust. No, Unjust, with a capital U. Everyone with eyes could

see he was out of bounds. Years later, McCloskey would admit he was out of bounds.

To this middle school kid, the world suddenly seemed a little less fair.

Now, don't come back and say we got even in 1994, when Nebraska was crowned national champion over an undefeated Penn State team. That one's filed away in my brain under the sub subcategory of "Logical and Obvious." We were by far the better team that year.

We're not even Penn State. Not by a long shot.

"Tim Siedell is a writer and humorist whose first book, 'Marching Bands Are Just Homeless Orchestras' is available now through Amazon.

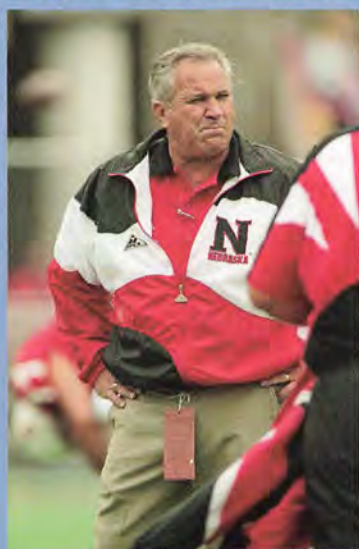
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Offensive lineman living his dream as a walk-on at Nebraska



**BRODRICK NICKENS'
GRANDPA HAS A
SHOP SET UP ON HIS**

ranch near Alliance, Neb., with a big-screen TV just to watch Husker football. That's where

the Nickens family watches Husker games.

"Waking up every Saturday morning when I was little and watching Husker football is what my family did during the fall," Nickens said. "My grandpa used to always say, 'You're going to be on that TV one of these days.'"

When he watched the games, Nickens noticed the offensive linemen. He wanted to be one.

"I remember when I was little, I'd sit there and think, 'Dang, those guys are big. I want to be that big,'" Nickens said. "My mom would always tell me, 'Hey, you can do it. Just keep your mind to it.'"

Even though Nickens admired the offensive lineman, his passion for football led him to play unlikely positions.

"When I was little, I'd play anything from quarterback to linebacker," he said. "Even though I was a little chubby kid, I'd play anything I could out there."

Now Nickens is a sophomore walk-on offensive lineman for the Huskers. And when he gets the chance, he takes his teammates back to his hometown. He took fellow offensive lineman walk-on Spencer Long to Alliance to his grandpa's ranch.

"Everyone that has come home with me has had a good time hanging out with the family," he said. "That's just kind of how it is. That's all there is to do: hang out, go hunting, fishing, ride dirt bikes."

Nickens had the chance to go to school closer to home. He turned down a scholarship offer from Nebraska-Kearney. He also turned down walk-on offers from Colorado and Colorado State to pursue his dream to be a Husker.

Being a walk-on hasn't always been easy.

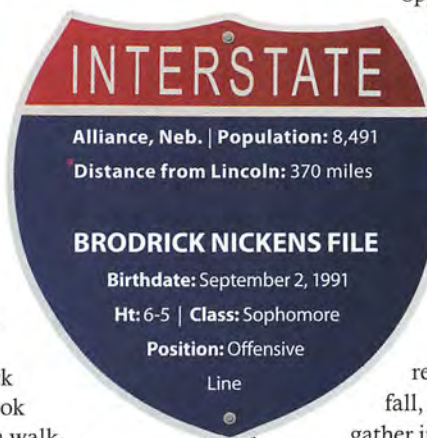
"It takes a lot to be a walk-on," Nickens said. "You're paying for everything. You're doing everything everyone else is. You put in the blood, sweat and tears. You have that initial drive to get a scholarship."

The drive to earn a scholarship is almost as strong as the drive to see the playing field. Nickens dreamed of playing in Memorial Stadium growing up.

"Ever since I was little, this was the dream," Nickens said. "I got the

opportunity to do it, so now I have to make the best of it. Next year I'm going to hopefully get some playing time. It all depends on how much hard work I want to do."

If Nickens does reach the field next fall, his family will gather in the shop to watch their hometown big man on the big screen in his grandpa's shop.





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Penn State Nittany Lions

PSU surges to top of Leaders Division with 5-0 conference start

by TERRY DOUGLASS

Building a lead in the Big Ten Conference's Leaders Division title chase might be easier than keeping it for Penn State.

After starting the season 8-1 (5-0 in conference play), Penn State was idle last weekend while preparing

for the most difficult portion of its Big Ten schedule. The Nittany Lions, whose lone loss came to Alabama, begin their difficult stretch at home against Nebraska before finishing with road games against divisional opponents Ohio State and Wisconsin.

The Cornhuskers will be just the second ranked team Penn State has faced this season. The Nittany Lions and Nebraska are designated rivals, meaning they will face each other annually. PSU leads the all-time series 7-6.



Senior wide receiver Derek Moya leads the Nittany Lions with 30 catches, 514 yards and three touchdown passes. The crisp route runner and prolific leaper will challenge the Husker secondary.



Joe Paterno

Resume: Joe Paterno has been Penn State's head coach since 1966 and with the Nittany

Lions' victory over Illinois on Oct. 29, the 84-year-old became the winningest coach in NCAA Division I history with 409 wins. Paterno was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 2007.

KNOW YOUR FOE

Silas Redd, RB, 5-10, 210, So.



With 137 yards against Illinois, Redd surpassed the 1,000-yard mark for the season. The sophomore posted his fifth consecutive 100-yard rushing game, becoming the first Nittany Lion to do so since Curtis Enis had eight straight in 1997.

Derek Moya, WR, 6-5, 210, Sr.



Despite missing two games with a foot injury and being limited in Penn State's game against Illinois, Moya is still the leading receiver on the season for the Nittany Lions with 30 catches for 514 yards. He averages 17.1 yards per reception.

Gerald Hodges, LB, 6-2, 235, Jr.



Hodges is far and away Penn State's leading tackler this season with 77 total stops, including 41 solo tackles. The junior from Paulsboro, N.J., has nine tackles for loss, including 4.5 sacks, and an interception.

2011 SCHEDULE

9/3 Indiana St. W, 41-7
9/10 Alabama L, 27-11
9/17 at Temple W, 14-10
9/24 Eastern Michigan W, 34-6
10/1 at Indiana W, 16-10
10/8 Iowa W, 13-3
10/15 Purdue W, 23-18
10/22 at Northwestern W, 34-24
10/29 Illinois W, 10-7
11/12 Nebraska
11/19 at Ohio St.
11/26 at Wisconsin

PHOTO COURTESY PENN STATE MEDIA RELATIONS

THEBIGTENBEAT

Fading Illini

Illinois falters after getting off to 6-0 start to open season | TERRY DOUGLASS



After getting off to a 6-0 start, Illinois' season has taken a dramatic turn.

The Fighting Illini entered their Oct. 15 game against Ohio State ranked No. 16 in the country and looking for the program's first 7-0 start since 1951. However, Illinois was upset by the Buckeyes 17-7 at home and then suffered disappointing road losses at Purdue (21-14) and Penn State (10-7) to take a three-game losing streak into its bye week.

In the loss to the Nittany Lions at Happy Valley, the Illini had a chance to force overtime as senior place-kicker Derek Dimke, who was 7-of-7 on field-goal attempts

for the season, lined up for a 42-yarder in damp conditions. Dimke's kick glanced off the right upright as time expired.

"Obviously they are going to be down from it because it hurts when you play that hard and put that much into it," Illinois coach Ron Zook said about his players. "But we have to come back and play these last three games and still have a big year for ourselves."

After taking last Saturday off, Illinois returns to action this week, starting a two-game home stretch against Michigan and Wisconsin. The Illini will finish the regular season at Minnesota.

DOUBLE TROUBLE

Michigan coach Brady Hoke says he likes operating his offense with a two-quarterback system with back-up Devin Gardner getting several snaps with starting signal-caller Denard Robinson also on the field, typically in the backfield or sometimes as a slot receiver in motion.

The Wolverines can use the scheme to take advantage of Robinson's running ability by handing him the football or simply use him as a decoy.

"There's more we can do with it," Hoke told the AP. "But it forces a defense to spend 10 minutes a day on that package. I think that helps us."

Added Robinson: "It always will open up the passing game. We just have to keep doing it every week."

SIMILAR CIRCUMSTANCE

Wisconsin coach Bret Bielema can appreciate the pressure Ohio State interim coach Luke Fickell faces as he attempts to replace his highly successful predecessor, Jim Tressel.

"The realities of our two situations are so completely different, I don't even know if it's fair to justify," said Bielema, who took over for Barry Alvarez in 2006. "Luke got thrown into something and has seemingly handled it very, very well. I've been impressed when I've watched him, when I talk to him."

BIG TEN ROUNDUP

► Michigan State quarterback Kirk Cousins was among 16 recipients of the National Football Foundation's scholar-athlete awards. The honorees, who win \$18,000 post-graduate scholarships, comprise the list of finalists for the 2011 William V. Campbell Trophy, recognizing the top scholar-athlete in the nation.

► Penn State's Joe Paterno broke Eddie Robinson's record for victories by a Division I coach with No. 409 in Penn State's 10-7 win over Illinois on Oct. 29. Paterno now trails only John Gagliardi, still active at Division III St. John's, Minn., with 481 victories.

► Perhaps no one enjoyed Minnesota's surprising 22-21 victory over Iowa more than Gophers' defensive tackle Brandon Kirsey, who sent his uncle, Iowa linebacker Christian Kirksey, a photo of the Floyd of Rosedale bronze pig trophy a few days before the game. "I told him if he wants it, he's got to come get it," Kirksey said.

► Penn State is the first team in the 116-year history of the league to win five straight games, all in conference play, by 10 points or fewer.

► Illinois WR A.J. Jenkins eclipsed the 1,000-yard receiving mark after catching six passes for 43 yards against Penn State.

Blackshirts benefit after bye week

BY MICHAEL BRUNTZ

The Nebraska defense took its share of lumps on and off the field during the first half of the season.

As the Huskers walked off the field following a beating at the hands of Wisconsin, many were scratching their heads wondering why a defense with three potential All-Americans was giving up yards and points in bunches.

Seems all the Huskers really needed was a break.

Nebraska's defense played a big fourth quarter against Ohio State – thanks to Buckeyes quarterback Joe Bauserman – and went into the bye week riding a wave of confidence. But it's what Nebraska did during the bye week that's paying dividends in the second half of the season.

The Huskers took a step back and focused on technique and fundamentals, spending time one-on-one with young players still trying to grasp Bo Pelini's complicated defense – players such as Andrew Green, Daimion Stafford and others who played big in the Huskers' dominating effort over Michigan State.

Defensive Coordinator Carl Pelini said he saw his defense building confidence during the bye week, and it showed against Minnesota and Michigan State, particularly in the secondary where Green, who struggled after initially earning the starting job, excelled.

"Again, our guys on the back end started adjusting to how we played defense," Carl Pelini said. "It was over the bye week when we could go back and revisit fundamentals of our coverage schemes and spend time teaching these guys one-on-one, I've seen improvement there. I knew it would translate in a big game and it did."

Carl Pelini said the coaching staff treated the bye week as an extension of fall camp and focused hard on technique. When the Huskers weren't focusing on technique, they practiced more with the first team offense against the first-team defense, resulting in physical practices that galvanized the players.

"It was huge for us," senior safety Austin Cassidy said of the bye week.

"Physically, mentally, we were able to regroup and take a step back as a defense



The biggest beneficiaries of the self-help were Stafford and Green, who came out of the bye week more confident.

and as a unit as defensive backs and say, 'Hey, this is where we are; this is where we want to be, and this is what it's going to take to get there.'

"I would say the most important thing we did was we turned the focus to us. Instead of worrying about a team that we have to play, or what our offense was going to do to us in practice, we turned the light on us."

Nebraska's secondary got back to the basics in the bye week, focusing on techniques and understanding how even the slightest mistakes in assignments and alignments can lead to big plays for opponents. The biggest beneficiaries of the self-help were Stafford and Green, who came out of the bye week more confident.

Stafford, a junior college transfer, who earned the starting job during the non-conference season, has seemed particularly unburdened since the bye week. Cassidy said Stafford has really grown in the second half of the season.

"He really knows what's happening in the defense," Cassidy said. "He's always been a ballhawk; he's always going to be around the ball, and now (that) he understands better what's going on, he can really let loose and let his hair down and make plays like he did today."

The timing of the bye week in the middle of the regular season allowed the Huskers to basically split their season in half. Bo Pelini and his staff often talk about the process and getting better each day. During his four seasons at Nebraska, a predictable pattern has emerged, especially on defense: once the light clicks on, Nebraska can be a dangerous defensive team. **N**

*Read daily Husker reports from Michael Bruntz at HuskersIllustrated.com
Follow him on Twitter @michaelbruntz*



I-BACK, 5-9, 180, FR
HOMEWOOD, ALA.

FIVE QUESTIONS

Ameer Abdullah

Auburn fan for life, but now wearing red

Nebraska freshman running back Ameer Abdullah had been to almost every Auburn football game since he was 6-years-old. His hometown of Homewood, Ala., a suburb of Birmingham, is about two hours from Auburn. His brother attends school at Auburn.

And Abdullah said he can recite the words to the Auburn fight song.

So yes, Abdullah is still an Auburn fan.

"Oh yeah, definitely," Abdullah said. "I've got a lot of friends who play for Auburn. They've been doing pretty well. They beat Florida. I love Auburn."

Abdullah couldn't name every Auburn

player he knows, only because the list is so long. He said he's probably closest friends with Michael Dyer and Jonathan Rose.



"I met Dyer a couple of times just because I visited Auburn pretty much every week, because it's right in my back yard," he said. "But I played in an all-star game, with the 2011 signing class, with Jonathan Rose. We grew up together. He's from Leeds, I'm from Birmingham. That's like 15 minutes

away. We'd hang out all the time. I love that guy."

Auburn initially recruited Abdullah as a safety before telling him late in the recruiting process they'd give him a chance at running back. By that point, Abdullah was sold on Nebraska.

And what if the Huskers played Auburn?

"We'd kill 'em," Abdullah said with a smile. "I'd be very amped up. It'd be very exciting, especially if we went back down to Auburn to play them. Man, that would be exciting. I would know everybody. But once the lights come on, friends no more; I'd just be ready to play."

1

HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED: What do you miss most about Alabama?

ABDULLAH: Just the warm weather. But I'm getting used to Nebraska. I've got my sweats on and everything. I'm getting used to the cold. It's getting better, day by day.

2

HI: What are the advantages of having dreadlocks?

ABDULLAH: They're pretty easy to maintain.



3

HI: What are the disadvantages?

ABDULLAH: Getting tackled by them. Fresno State game, I caught an option. The guy literally dragged me down by the left side of my dreads. It hurt very badly. But I like them.

4

HI: What are you listening to on your headphones?

ABDULLAH: Right now, I'm listening to some Maxwell. I'm very diverse in my music collection.

5

HI: What's the best movie you saw this summer?

ABDULLAH: I would say Warrior. It's a very good movie, a very good storyline behind it. Either Warrior, or the movie Courageous.



by Terry Douglass

TURNING POINT



PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

4th Quarter

Despite struggling for much of the day to get Northwestern's offense off the field, Nebraska's defensive players still had an opportunity to make fourth-quarter amends.

After the Cornhuskers sliced Northwestern's lead to 21-18 on I-back Rex Burkhead's 1-yard touchdown run with 8:55 to play, all the Blackshirts needed to give their offense a chance to win the game was to make a stop. However, the underdog Wildcats responded with a 13-play, 66-yard drive that took 7:14 off the clock and gave Northwestern a 28-18 lead with 1:34 to play on quarterback Kain Colter's 1-yard TD sneak.

That proved to be the knockout punch as the Wildcats defeated Nebraska 28-25 at Memorial Stadium.

"I would really just have to say that when the game was up for grabs in the fourth quarter, when it could've gone either way, they outplayed us," Nebraska senior safety Austin Cassidy said. "We couldn't get a stop when we needed to. I've got to give credit to those guys: They deserved to win that game. They outplayed us."

Down by three points and desperately needing a defensive stop with 8:48 to play, Nebraska gave

up runs of 14 and 11 yards to Jacob Schmidt and 14 yards to Colter on the first three plays of Northwest's possession. That put the Wildcats in prime scoring position with a first and 10 at the Huskers' 27-yard line.

In a game where Nebraska's defense was on the field for 78 plays and 34:06, Cassidy said fatigue shouldn't have been an issue.

"You get tired every fourth quarter," Cassidy said. "It's about digging down deep and pulling something out when there's nothing and we didn't do that today."

Nebraska head coach Bo Pelini agreed.

"Sometimes in this life, it comes down to want-to," Pelini said. "I'm not saying our guys didn't want to, but maybe they wanted it a little more than we did."

Northwestern's game-clinching march put the exclamation point on a tough defensive day for Nebraska. The Wildcats finished with 468 yards of total offense and had 25 first downs.

"When you have opportunities to get off the field, defensively, you've got to get off the field," Nebraska defensive end John Papuchis said. **N**

TAYLOR MARTINEZ



PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK

PASSING GRADE

Lost in the shuffle of Nebraska's 28-25 home loss to Northwestern was one of the better passing performances in Taylor Martinez's career as the Cornhuskers' starting quarterback.

Martinez finished 28 of 37 through the air for 289 yards with two touchdowns and no interceptions. It was Martinez's second 200-yard passing day of the season and the third of his career as he had 219 yards this season against Fresno State and a career-high 323 passing yards in 2010 at Oklahoma State.

"Our run game wasn't working too well and we had to transfer over to the pass game and Taylor did a great job today," said Nebraska wide receiver Tim Marlowe, who had four receptions for 44 yards. "(He) really grew as a passer. He was accurate all day, even in those (30 mph) winds. Taylor played a great game."

Martinez's .757 completion percentage was the best of his career, bettering his 16-of-22 effort earlier this season against

Ohio State. He had 12 consecutive completions at one point, falling three short of tying David Humm's school-record 15 consecutive completions at Kansas in 1974.

"People are always doubting Taylor's arm and saying, 'Make Nebraska pass,' but Taylor showed the world today that we can pass and he's really grown," Marlowe said. "He's getting better game by game and he's just going to continue to get better."

WILDCATS OVERLOOKED?

One week after posting a key 24-3 Big Ten Legends Division victory over Michigan State, Nebraska suffered a three-point home loss to 17 1/2-point underdog Northwestern, which entered the game with a 3-5 record.

While Nebraska head coach Bo Pelini said he didn't see a lack of focus in practice, but the actual game against Northwestern was a different story.

"I saw a lack of focus out there today by the way we executed, putting the ball on

the ground," said Pelini, whose team lost two fumbles. "At the end of the day, you've got to make plays to win. They made the plays, we didn't. I give them credit."

However, Nebraska defensive end Eric Martin had a different take.

"We just weren't focused," Martin said. "You win the game during the week (in practice) and we just didn't win the game during the week. Give a lot of credit to Northwestern, they came out and played their hearts out. We just laid an egg."

RUSHING WOES

Despite entering the game ranked No. 95 nationally in rushing defense, Northwestern limited Nebraska to a season-low 122 yards rushing on 35 carries. It marked just the third time this season that the Huskers failed to top the 200-yard mark in rushing.

"We just didn't do things right," Nebraska offensive coordinator Tim Beck said. "We played very sloppy. We had turnovers, dropped passes, missed reads

GameNotes

AUSTIN CASSIDY



PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK

BLACKSHIRTS DEBUT

When Nebraska's defensive players received their Blackshirt practice jerseys following their standout performance in a 24-3 victory over Michigan State on Oct. 29, it's safe to say their performance against Northwestern wasn't what they

had in mind.

The Wildcats gained 468 total yards, including 207 yards rushing. More importantly, Northwestern had 25 first downs, kept Nebraska's defense on the field for 78 plays and won the time of possession battle 34:06-25:54.

"We take a lot of pride in getting those Blackshirts and to go do what we did today was embarrassing," Cassidy said. "You're not going to win very many games, giving up (28 points) ... and (468) yards of offense."

and missed blocks. It went across the board at every position.

"It starts with me and trickles down from there. I didn't have them ready to play."

Northwestern limited Nebraska I-back Rex Burkhead to 69 yards on 22 rushing attempts. Burkhead had a string of six consecutive games of 96 yards rushing or more, going over 100 yards five times.

"We just fit right," Northwestern coach Pat Fitzgerald said. "We tackled better than we have all year."

LOOKING AHEAD

Nebraska's loss to Northwestern means the Huskers now have little margin for error in the Legends Division race heading down the stretch run of the regular season, which includes road games at Penn State and at Michigan before returning home to play

Iowa.

"We've got to win out and see what else happens, but our biggest concern is just getting right and fixing the things that went wrong and playing well next weekend against Penn State," Nebraska defensive line coach John Papuchis said. "We can worry about that as it comes. We've got win one game at a time."

Nebraska wide receiver Tim Marlowe said the Huskers can't afford to dwell on the loss.

"It's never easy, but we're a family and families go through ups and downs as well," Marlowe said. "At the end of the day, we realize that there's still a lot of football out there for us. We have three big games ahead and we've just got to hope that things play out right for us."

"The only thing we can do is handle our business and win out."

ON A ROLL

Nebraska punter Brett Maher successfully added another weapon to his arsenal against Northwestern, unveiling rugby-style punts to help him combat windy conditions at Memorial Stadium. After receiving the long snap, Maher would run to his right and hit a line-drive punt away from the Wildcats' punt return specialist.

"We put that in this week knowing that it was going to be really windy today," Maher said. "We thought that it could be a tool to use going into the wind and they had a good return guy so we tried to keep it out of his hands. If that opportunity presented itself, that was the plan going in the whole week."

Maher had another successful punting day, averaging 47.5 yards on four punts. He pinned Northwestern inside its own 20-yard line twice and also hit a 36-yard field goal, making him 15 of 18 on field-goal attempts this season.

"I thought I played alright, but in the end it doesn't really matter," Maher said. "I'd take the worst statistics in the world if we were going to win on Saturdays."

WORTH NOTING

► Nebraska's defense tied a season high with three takeaways against Northwestern. The Huskers converted the turnovers into 10 points.

► Junior wide receiver Tim Marlowe scored his first career TD for the Huskers on 15-yard third-quarter reception.

► Nebraska's game captains were junior receiver Khiry Cooper, senior safety Austin Cassidy, junior defensive end Eric Martin and junior long-snapper P.J. Mangieri.



QUINCY ENUNWA #18, TIM
MARLOWE #6, KENNY BELL #80 AND
AMEER ABDULLAH #8 CELEBRATE
AFTER MARLOWE'S 3RD QUARTER
TOUCHDOWN RECEPTION.
PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK



**WHEN THE GAME
IS ON THE LINE
NOTHING IS LEFT TO CHANCE**

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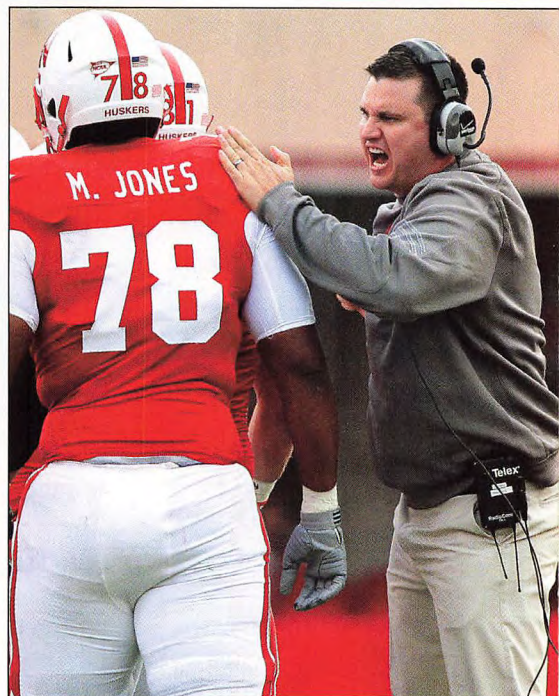


NCE

28	25
NORTHWESTERN	NEBRASKA



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: 1) Taylor Martinez scrambles against Northwestern. *Photo by Aaron Babcock* 2) Will Compton celebrates after recovering a fumble in the first half. *Photo by Aaron Babcock* 3) Assistant coach John Garrison motivates Marcel Jones and the offensive line. *Photo by Aaron Babcock* 4) Rex Burkhead rushes against Northwestern in the fourth quarter. *Photo by Aaron Babcock* 5) Baker Steinkuhler pursues Northwestern quarterback Dan Persa. *Photo by Aaron Babcock*



RUSHING OFFENSE: Rex Burkhead rushed for 69 yards on 22 carries (3.1 yards per carry) and had an uncharacteristic fumble in the red zone. Nebraska's offensive line didn't push around the Wildcats defense in the way that many thought they would. Part of the problem is that Northwestern's defense is used to playing against a quick tempo offense, and Nebraska never really did grind down the Wildcat front. The offensive line struggled, and as the game progressed yards got harder to come by for NU - save for a late drive at the end of the game. Nebraska's coaching staff rotated linemen in the third quarter, but never really found a cohesive rhythm against the Wildcats.

D

PASSING OFFENSE: Taylor Martinez looked sharp before halftime, finishing the first half 11 for 13 for 101 yards in a blustery wind that didn't make passing easy. Offensive coordinator Tim Beck got Martinez out of the pocket and the quarterback found success, hitting wide receiver Brandon Kinnie five times before halftime. That success continued into the second half, when he found Tim Marlowe for a touchdown and hit Kenny Bell for the final score of the game with less than a minute remaining. The passing game wasn't without its flaws. Wide receiver Quincy Enunwa made a nice catch on a slant route from Martinez, but fumbled resulting in a turnover. Wide receiver Kenny Bell also had a case of the drops in the first half, muffing two easy catches that could have kept the chains moving. Add in drops for Ben Cotton and Kinnie and it spoiled what would have been even better numbers for Martinez. Jamal Turner, Nebraska's leading receiver coming into Saturday's game, again was under-utilized.

B

RUSHING DEFENSE: Kain Colter's versatility created problems for the defense in the second half, particularly in the running game - but also passing (see 82-yard touchdown in the fourth quarter). While Northwestern didn't average 4 yards per carry (3.8), they ran it right down Nebraska's throat in the fourth quarter with the game on the line. Nebraska's poor tackling kept the Wildcats on the field, as Northwestern finished won the time of possession battle by over 9 minutes..

C

PASSING DEFENSE: As was the case with Ohio State in its loss against Nebraska, Northwestern had to play without its starting quarterback at crunch time. Dan Persa was forced to leave the game late in the first half with an injured left shoulder, suffered when he was pulled down by Eric Martin. Persa was 9-for-14 in the first half, with only his fourth interception of the season. When the Wildcats wanted to use Colter as a wideout, third-string quarterback Trevor Siemian came in. Siemien threw the pass Austin Cassidy intercepted in the end zone. But for the big pass from Colter to Jeremy Ebert, the grade probably would have been in the B range.

C

KICKING/SPECIAL TEAMS: Brett Maher nailed his only field goal attempt and his rugby style punting pinned the Wildcats back throughout the first half. Maher averaged 45.7 yards on his first half punts, with a long of 50. However, the punt coverage team couldn't stop Maher's punts inside the 5-yard line, allowing two touchbacks. Maher drilled a key fourth quarter punt, pinning Northwestern inside its own 20-yard line, swinging the field goal advantage back into Nebraska's favor. The Huskers return team gave Nebraska solid field position all game, but the coverage unit allowed a long return on the opening kickoff in the second half.

C



PHOTOS BY AARON BABCOCK

QUICK PICKS



Aaron Babcock



Mike Babcock



Michael Bruntz



Terry Douglass



Kevin Kugler



Matt Davison

Last Week, Season

(5-3, 56-14)

(5-3, 55-15)

(4-4, 52-18)

(6-2, 54-16)

(5-3, 53-17)

(5-3, 54-16)

Nebraska at Penn State	NU 21-18	NU 21-17	NU 21-17	NU 27-23	PSU 21-17	NU 21-17
Oregon at Stanford	STAN 41-38	ORE 35-31	STAN 31-30	STAN 45-42	STAN 38-31	ORE 34-31
Michigan at Illinois	MU 35-24	MU 42-28	MU 27-24	MU 31-28	MU 28-21	ILL 35-27
Michigan State at Iowa	MSU 20-17	IOWA 17-15	MSU 24-20	MSU 20-17	IOWA 24-21	MSU 27-21
Auburn at Georgia	UGA 20-14	UGA 20-17	UGA 31-24	UGA 24-21	UGA 31-14	UGA 37-34
Oklahoma State at Texas Tech	OSU 55-28	OSU 56-35	OSU 40-31	OSU 63-42	OSU 52-21	OSU 49-34
Texas A&M at Kansas State	KSU 35-20	A&M 32-27	KSU 31-21	KSU 38-35	KSU 42-35	A&M 31-28
Miami at Florida State	FSU 21-20	UM 28-24	UM 27-25	FSU 28-21	FSU 41-21	FSU 27-24

SUMMARY

SCORING

November 5, 2011
Memorial Stadium, Lincoln, Neb.
Attendance: 85,115

	1	2	3	4	F
NORTHWESTERN	7	0	7	14	28
NEBRASKA	0	3	7	15	25

	NU	NW
Q1 2:08 NU - Schmidt, Jacob 2 yd run (Budzien, Jeff kick), 13-80 4:48	7	0
Q2 2:26 NEB - Maher, Brett 36 yd field goal, 5-18 1:38	7	3
Q3 12:13 NU - Colter, Kain 3 yd run (Budzien, Jeff kick), 6-59 2:39	14	3
3:52 NEB - Marlowe, Tim 15 yd pass from Martinez, T. (Maher kick), 8-50 2:53	14	10
Q4 12:16 NU - Ebert, Jeremy 81 yd pass from Colter, Kain (Budzien kick), 2-84 0:40	21	10
8:55 NEB - Burkhead, Rex 1 yd run (Martinez, Taylor rush), 12-74 3:15	21	18
1:34 NU - Colter, Kain 1 yd run (Budzien, Jeff kick), 13-66 7:14	28	18
00:18 NEB - Bell, Kenny 14 yd pass from Martinez, Taylor (Maher kick), 10-74 1:10	28	25

TEAM STATS

	NU	NW
FIRST DOWNS	25	21
Rushing	15	6
Passing	9	14
Penalty		1
NET YARDS RUSHING	207	122
Rushing Attempts	54	35
Average Per Rush	3.8	3.5
Rushing Touchdowns	3	1
Yards Gained Rushing	225	149
Yards Lost Rushing	18	27
NET YARDS PASSING	261	289
Comp-Att-Int	16-24-2	28-37-0
Average Per Attempt	10.9	7.8
Average Per Completion	16.3	10.3
Passing Touchdowns	1	2
TOTAL OFFENSE YARDS	468	411
Total offense plays	78	72
Average Gain Per Play	6.0	5.7
Fumbles: Number-Lost	1-1	2-2
Penalties: Number-Yards	2-20	6-41
PUNTS-YARDS	2-84	4-190
Average Yards Per Punt	42.0	47.5
Net Yards Per Punt	42.0	37.5
Inside 20	0	2
50+ Yards	0	2
Touchbacks	0	2
Fair catch	1	0
KICKOFFS-YARDS	5-323	4-264
Average Yards Per Kickoff	64.6	66.0
Net Yards Per Kickoff	41.6	40.2
Touchbacks	0	1
Punt returns: Number-Yards-TD	0-0-0	1-0-0
Average Per Return	0.0	0.0
Kickoff returns: Number-Yds-TD	3-83-0	5-115-0
Average Per Return	27.7	23.0
Interceptions: Number-Yds-TD	0-0-0	2-48-0
Fumble Returns: Number-Yds-TD	0-0-0	0-0-0
Miscellaneous Yards	0	0
Possession Time	34:06	25:54
Third-Down Conversions	7 of 12	10 of 17
Fourth-Down Conversions	2 of 2	1 of 2
Red-Zone Scores-Chances	3-4	4-5
Touchdowns	3-4	3-5
Field goals	0-4	1-5
Sacks By: Number-Yards	1-10	1-7
PAT Kicks	4-4	2-2

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

NEBRASKA

RUSHING	NO	GAIN	LOST	NET	TD	LG	AVG
Burkhead, Rex	22	80	11	69	1	19	3.1
Martinez, Taylor	12	69	16	53	0	19	4.4
Abdullah, Ameer	1	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Totals	35	149	27	122	1	19	3.5

PASSING	C-A-I	YDS	TD	LONG	SACK
Martinez, Taylor	28-37-0	289	2	25	1

RECEIVING	NO	YARDS	TD	LONG
Kinnie, Brandon	6	42	0	12
Bell, Kenny	5	58	1	17
Burkhead, Rex	5	34	0	13
Marlowe, Tim	4	44	1	15
Cotton, Ben	3	36	0	15
Enunwa, Quincy	2	34	0	25
Reed, Kyler	2	31	0	25
Cooper, Khiry	1	10	0	10
Totals	28	289	2	25

PUNTS	NO	YDS	AVG	LONG	IN20	TB
Maher, Brett	4	190	47.5	53	2	2

RETURNS	NO	YDS	LG	NO	YDS	LG	NO	YDS	LG
Abdullah, Ameer	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bell, Kenny	0	0	0	4	96	28	0	0	0
Marlowe, Tim	0	0	0	1	19	19	0	0	0
David, Lavonte	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	-2	0
Cassidy, Austin	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	50	50

FIELD GOALS	QTR	TIME	DISTANCE	RES
Maher, Brett	2nd	02:26	36 yards	Good

DEFENSE	TS	AT	TT	SACK-YD	TFL-YD	FF	FR-YD	INT-YD	BU	BLK	QBH
Thorell, Lance	9	6	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
David, Lavonte	1	10	11	-	-	-	-	1-2	-	-	-
Steinkuhler, B.	7	2	9	1.0-7	2-10	-	-	-	1	-	-
Cassidy, Austin	3	5	8	-	-	-	-	1-50	-	-	-
Moore, Terrence	1	6	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meredith, C.	2	4	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Stafford, D.	3	2	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Compton, Will	1	4	5	-	-	-	1-0	-	-	-	-
Evans, Ciente	1	4	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dennard, A.	2	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Martin, Eric	1	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Richards, Wil	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Blatchford, J.	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ankrah, Jason	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Washington, D.	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fisher, Sean	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jackson, Justin	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Williams, Josh	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

NORTHWESTERN

RUSHING	NO	GAIN	LOST	NET	TD	LG	AVG
Colter, Kain	17	70	13	57	2	17	3.4
Schmidt, Jacob	13	54	0	54	1	14	4.2
Green, Treyvon	14	57	3	54	0	7	3.9
Persa, Dan	5	35	0	35	0	17	7.0
Mark, Venric	2	6	0	6	0	4	3.0
Smith, Adonis	2	3	0	3	0	2	1.5
TEAM	1	0	2	-2	0	0	-2.0
Totals	54	225	18	207	3	17	3.8

PASSING	C-A-I	YDS	TD	LONG	SACK
Persa, Dan	9-14-1	79	0	22	0
Colter, Kain	4-6-0	115	1	81	1
Siemian, Trevor	3-4-1	67	0	32	0
Totals	16-24-2	261	1	81	1

RECEIVING	NO	YARDS	TD	LONG
Ebert, Jeremy	6	147	1	81
Dunsmore, Drake	4	39	0	23
Colter, Kain	3	57	0	32
Brown, Charles	1	10	0	10
Green, Treyvon	1	5	0	5
Fields, Demetrius	1	3	0	3
Totals	16	261	1	81

PUNTS	NO	YDS	AVG	LONG	IN20	TB
Williams, Brandon	2	84	42.0	48	0	0

RETURNS	NO	YDS	LG	NO	YDS	LG	NO	YDS	LG
Schmidt, Jacob	0	0	0	1	19	19	0	0	0
Mark, Venric	0	0	0	2	64	41	0	0	0

FIELD GOALS	QTR	TIME	DISTANCE	RES
Budzien, Jeff	4th	14:25	45 yards	Missed

DEFENSE	TS	AT	TT	SACK-YD	TFL-YD	FF	FR-YD	INT-YD	BU	BLK	QBH
Campbell, J.	7	6	13	-	1-5	-	1-0	-	-	-	-
Mabin, Jordan	8	4	12	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Proby, Damien	5	4	9	1.0-10	2-11	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nwabuisi, David	4	5	9	-	2-2	1	-	-	1	-	-
Williams, Q.	0	7	7	-	2-3	-	-	-	-	1	-
Matthews, J.	3	2	5	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Peters, Brian	3	2	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Weina, Ricky	2	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mark, Venric	1	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scott, Tyler	1	2	3	-	-	-	1-0	-	-	-	-
Ellis, Collin	0	3	3	-	1-0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Watt, Kevin	1	1	2	-	1-4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Johnson, Ben	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ariguzo, C.	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Browne, V.	0	2	2	-	1-1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hampton, Will	0	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bryant, C.J.	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jones, Tyris	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Burkett, Ben	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Persa, Dan	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carter, Chance	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DiNardo, Jack	0	1	1	-	1-1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hall, Jimmy	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
McNaul, Bryce	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bolden, Mike	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Schmidt, Jacob	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jones, Daniel	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

IN THE Red Zone

Pelini embraces pride, hardwork in the Blackshirt Tradition

Among the ways almost certain to put Bo Pelini in a bad mood is by asking when Blackshirts will be handed out. During his weekly news conference on the Monday after the Michigan State game, however, Pelini talked at length about the Blackshirt tradition.

"When I first got back here, I was so removed from the college game," said Pelini, who was defensive coordinator for Frank Solich in 2003 after seven years in the NFL with the Green Bay Packers, New England Patriots and San Francisco 49ers.

"People were talking to me about 'Blackshirts,' and I thought, 'Yeah, I have a lot of black shirts.' I didn't know what they were talking about."

Solich, or "someone around the program for a while," explained the Blackshirt tradition, "what I was walking into," Pelini said. "You come from the outside and aren't quite sure, but I think it's a great tradition, and we have embraced



it.

"I think there's a pride that goes along with the tradition."

Pelini has put his stamp on the tradition, which began in 1964, after NCAA rules changes allowed for two-platoon play. Whereas Blackshirts were long given out to 11 defensive starters, typically at the end of fall camp, Pelini has delayed awarding them until they have been earned. His first season

as head coach, that meant after the 10th game at Kansas. In 2009, they were handed out on the Friday before the sixth game against Texas Tech. And last season, the black practice jerseys were earned after the third game at Washington.

"I put a lot of stock into practice, more than what happens on Saturday," said Pelini. "It's a culmination of how you practice and prepare and timing. I really don't



PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK

care what people outside (the program) think about when or why you should give them out. It's something you talk about as a staff, and when you feel like the time is right, you go for it."

As for being perturbed by questions about when players would get the coveted black practice jerseys, "I'm not really into distractions," said Pelini. "I'm into keeping our guys' minds on what they should be on. I like how we've handled it.

We're the ones watching film and tape and (who) have an idea of what our standards are and what we want to have.

"I wouldn't say it gets annoying. But the constant asking of when we will do it gets bad. When we do it is the right time. You don't want to just do it. I always felt like anything you do in life, you don't do it just to do it. You do it when you feel in your heart it's right.

"And that's how we like to handle it."

Men in Black*

Jason Ankrah, DE

Eric Martin, DE

Chase Rome, DT

Terrence Moore, DT

Baker Steinkuhler, DT

Thad Randle, DT

Cameron Meredith, DE

Josh Williams, DE

Sean Fisher, LB

Will Compton, LB

Lavonte David, LB

Stanley Jean-Baptiste, CB

Andrew Green, CB

Alfonzo Dennard, CB

Ciante Evans, CB

Austin Cassidy, S

P.J. Smith, S

Daimion Stafford, S

Lance Thorell, D-LB

Justin Blatchford, D

**These players received black practice jerseys on the Monday after the Michigan State game. But there was no guarantee the jerseys would be retained. "One thing our guys understand is that it's something you earn and continue to earn," Bo Pelini said. If not, they could be taken away – and have been taken away in the past.*

Another Peat connection

Nebraska has Todd Peat in the program, is in pursuit of brother, Andrus, and now looking at cousin Avery Moss

Tempe (Ariz.) Corona Del Sol defensive end **AVERY MOSS** is going through the recruiting process with his senior season winding down.

The 6-foot-4, 233 pound three-star is hoping to take his first official visit to Nebraska with Andrus Peat. Andrus and Todd Peat are not only teammates, they are also cousins with Moss.

"I'm planning on visiting Nov. 25 for the Iowa game," Moss told HuskersIllustrated.com. "It's not 100 percent right now but that is the plan. I think Nebraska is a great program. I like how they run the defense and I could fit in with what they do. It's also nice having family out there in Todd and maybe Andrus too."

Purdue recently offered a scholarship, joining Arizona State, Arizona and Washington among others.

Moss said at one point he was pretty high on Arizona, but following the coaching change he's decided to take a more open approach.

"I'm open right now and just wanting to see who is interested," he said. "I'm still probably going to take a visit to Arizona, Washington and maybe Boise State. Boise hasn't offered but they are recruiting me pretty heavy. Oregon is also showing a lot of interest."

BACKUP WR PLAN?

A backup plan has emerged for Nebraska at wide receiver. The Huskers have had some contact with 3-star receiver

CHRIS HARPER of Crespi Carmelite High School. In return, Harper has moved Nebraska into his top three along with California and Colorado. The Encino, Calif., native isn't concerned about moving far from home.

"I can see myself moving anywhere, as long as I am getting a free education, and if they're letting me compete for a spot, I'm fine wherever I go," he said. "I want to find out more about their program. I know they have a really good football team."

Nebraska has offers out to several other receivers and one commitment from 4-star receiver **JORDAN WESTERKAMP**. If some top targets like 4-star receiver **MONTY MADARIS**, 3-star athlete **ALONZO MOORE** and 3-star receiver receiver **KENNY LAWLER** decide to look elsewhere, Harper might move quickly up the Huskers' board. Harper said he's been encouraged to stay in contact with the program.

The wide receiver has put up strong numbers for Crespi this season. Through eight games Harper has compiled 33 receptions for 763 yards and 11 touchdowns.

Despite the strong production, the recruiting process hasn't moved quickly enough for Harper. He's currently without an offer.

"It's kind of frustrating," he said. "I feel like I'm as good as these receivers that are

getting offers. I'm doing all the same things that they are, putting up the same yards, plus touchdowns. I might not be as heavy as they are but I have the same kind speed, my hands are the same, if not better."

The receiver did hold one offer earlier in the season from Colorado, but the Buffs withdrew.

"Two receivers committed, so they couldn't hold my scholarship," he said.

California, Harper's top choice at the moment, is also looking at him as a backup plan.

"Cal doesn't have any open scholarships right now," he said. "I was a late person to them also. They said that as long as they get a spot open the offer will probably come."

UCLA has emerged as a contender for Harper, with the wide receiver going on an unofficial visit during the UCLA-Cal game.

Harper lists himself at 6-foot-1, 170 pounds. He knows he'll have to get bigger for the college game, but said his effort and production are already there.

"Every game I try to play my hardest, because I see college coaches on the sideline," he said. "Sometimes they are there for me. I just want to show them even more that I should be the guy that they are there for and I should be the guy that they are there to watch."

Even with a bit of a smaller frame, Harper's 39-inch vertical helps him come away with most

jump balls.

"If I can deep the ball, I'm going to go up for it," he said. "If the ball is in the air it's either my ball or the ball is going to the ground. You can't let nobody pickoff the ball."

DIGGS TALKS RECRUITMENT

South Carolina has been one of the favorites for defensive back **JORDAN DIGGS** (Cape Coral, Fla./Island Coast) since the beginning, but he hasn't visited South Carolina since he was young.

Diggs is currently in the middle of taking his official visits. His first visit was to Nebraska in early October, and the Huskers are high on his list.

"I was at Nebraska for the Ohio State game," Diggs said. "It was awesome. The fans were crazy and so was the game atmosphere. I had never been to a game like that. It was good."

His second official visit was to Vanderbilt when they played host Georgia.

"It was a little different from Nebraska," Diggs said. "I still got a good vibe being at the game. The fans were really into it. It was good to see the team fight and stay in the game."

Diggs will be taking his third official visit this weekend, and it will be to Tennessee. It will be his second visit to Knoxville.

"I just want to get a feel for Rocky Top," Diggs said. "I like that I have an opportunity to play at Tennessee. They have

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a young team and have had a lot of injuries this season. I think they will be back to the old Tennessee soon. I really like their coaching staff."

The only other official visit Diggs has set up is to South Carolina. He was planning on visiting South Carolina next weekend when they hosted Florida, but had to reschedule for the Clemson game.

"I talked with Coach (G.A.) Mangus on Monday," Diggs said. "I can't wait to see everything. This is one visit that I have to take. I wouldn't be able to make a decision without visiting them. I have a soft spot in my heart for South Carolina."

The soft spot is because his father, Shed Diggs, played at South Carolina in the 1980s. Jordan grew up watching South Carolina and also grew up a fan of the Gamecocks.

Mangus is the main recruiter for Diggs. He is being recruited to South Carolina to play the SPUR position and that is why USC coach John Butler is also heavily involved in his recruitment.

"I talk with Coach Butler twice a week most times," Diggs said. "I stay in touch with Coach Mangus as well. They just talk to me about the opportunity I have to play with Antonio Allen leaving. They tell me the direction they are going in and how I fit in their scheme. They want me to play in the box and say that I would be a great fit for their defense."

The 6-foot-2, 190-pounder has liked what he has seen out of the SPUR position this season.

"I love everything about the position," Diggs said. "That position is Jordan Diggs. You have to play the run and the pass. It is a guy that makes a lot of plays and you have a nose for the ball. It would showcase to the NFL scouts what they want to see."

Diggs currently is undecided about his fifth and final official visit. He said that it will either be Ohio State, Michigan State, or Ole Miss that gets his final visit.

"I'm looking at the Army All-American game to make my

decision," Diggs said. "That would be the latest that I would decide. If I feel something before then, then I will do it then."

Diggs indicated he doesn't currently have any leaders. He is a 4-star prospect according to 247Sports and has a 93 rating.

HUSKERS SHOW INTEREST IN 2013 OL

Despite not playing much football as a sophomore, Class of 2013 offensive lineman **JORDAN PAGE** (Pennington, N.J./The Pennington School) is getting attention from a number of college programs.

Page, who can incline leg press more than 900 pounds, has been getting attention from West Virginia, Rutgers, Connecticut, Boston College, Penn State, Temple, Wisconsin, Central Florida, Nebraska and South Carolina.

He has been to Storrs "four or five times" for games, junior days and camps, has taken an unofficial visit to Temple and will visit West Virginia on the final weekend of the season - Nov. 26 - when the Mountaineers play host to Pitt in the annual "Backyard Brawl" between the neighboring programs.

Page is working on getting film together to distribute to colleges and the media. Without that, he has no verbal scholarship offers. That being said, he'd like to hear from a more diverse selection of programs geographically.

"I just want to look at some schools in the West," Page said. "At first, I was sort of looking all up and down I-95. I think Nebraska is the most far one right now."

The 6-foot-5, 305-pounder was at a school that cancelled football last season, so he played for a local charter school that basically practiced and played in very few games. Now, through seven games at Pennington, he has been a standout at right tackle on offense and has 36 tackles, three sacks, two fumble recoveries, a forced fumble and a blocked field goal on defense.

2012 NEBRASKA COMMITS



★★★★

GREG MCMULLEN

DE, 6-5, 225, Akron, Ohio (Archbishop Hoban)
247Sports Rating: 94



★★★★

MICHAEL ROSE

LB, 6-0, 225, Kansas City Mo. (Rockhurst)
247Sports Rating: 93



★★★★

PAUL THURSTON

OT, 6-5, 275, Arvada, Colo. (Arvada West)
247Sports Rating: 92



★★★★

JORDAN WESTERKAMP

WR, 6-1, 190, Lombard, Ill. (Montini Catholic)
247Sports Rating: 90



★★★

DEION JONES

OLB, 6-2, 200, New Orleans (Jesuit)
247Sports Rating: 88



★★★

TOMMY ARMSTRONG

QB, 6-1, 200, Schertz, Texas (Byron P Steele)
247Sports Rating: 86



★★★

ZAIRE ANDERSON

LB, 6-0, 220, Riverside, Calif. (Riverside CC)
247Sports Rating: 85



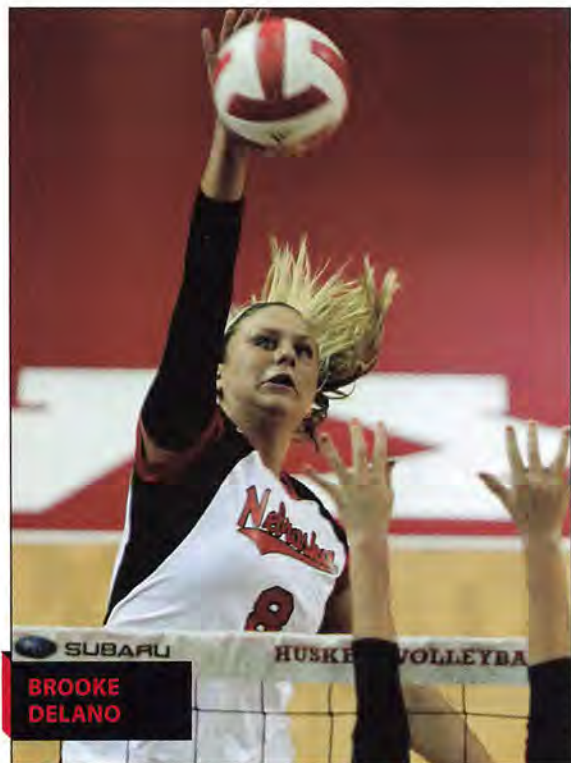
★★★

SAM COTTON

TE, 6-4, 235, Lincoln, Neb. (Lincoln Southeast)
247Sports Rating: 81

Despite shoulder problems, Delano provides spark

Middle hitter overcoming shoulder surgery, but doesn't keep her from smiling | BOB HAMAR



PHOTOS BY SCOTT BRUHN

BROOKE DELANO HAS THE GIFT.

Not only is Delano an All-America middle blocker for John Cook's Nebraska volleyball team, but she also has that gift of being able to smile and make her teammates feel better no matter what the situation. Cook said his daughter, Lauren, has that gift.

"Every once in a while, players come through -- Brooke has that gift, too," Cook said. "Certain players, no matter what is happening, they still can

give to their teammates. It's something you can't coach. It's who they are."

And that's who Delano has always been. The senior from Bellevue West has been playing that way since she was a youngster.

"I am a light-hearted player," Delano said.

"I like to have fun and be goofy. I feel like that energizes other people as well. I need to be more consistent in having fun and making everybody

smile. I feel like that's my role."

When the Huskers are smiling, Delano said that's when they play their best.

"Week by week we're all starting to mesh well together," Delano said. "We have so many new players, but you can see we're starting to love each other."

That showed when the Huskers downed then-No. 1 Illinois Oct. 22 at the NU Coliseum. The crowd was pumped, the players were pumped and after winning the first set, the Illini were blown away in the next three.

"It was so much fun," Delano said. "It was nice just to see us out-team them. Every single point, whether we won or lost, we were coming together, we were smiling, we were having fun."

It hasn't been an easy senior season for Delano, who could have been a Division I basketball player if she had chosen that sport. Delano had shoulder surgery in January. That not only caused her to miss spring practice, but it kept her from playing over the

Co-Captains On The Sidelines

Seniors Brigitte Root and Jordan Wilberger don't play a lot for the Huskers. Wilberger is a back up at middle blocker and Root the back-up for All-America setter Lauren Cook.

It may be a little unusual to have co-captains who don't play much, but it's not the first time. John Cook said in 2000 Jill McWilliams was a captain who wasn't a regular, and she is still the best captain he's ever had.

"I put her in as a sub in the fifth game of the national championship match," he said. "I still don't know why I did it. She didn't play, and she's still the best captain I've had here."

Rough Road Trip

The Huskers had a rough road trip to Ohio State and Penn State the last weekend in October. Nebraska won at Ohio State on Friday, but dropped a four-setter to the Nittany Lions the next night.

Travel conditions made the trip even tougher. The Huskers were flying to University Park, Pa., that Saturday morning but didn't know if they could land there because of a late-October snowstorm.

"As a coach I had flashbacks about some other trips teams have gone in snow storms," Cook said. "It's a lot of pressure on a coach to make those kinds of decisions. But these pilots are very good, they're safe. We had several conversations about getting in there safe."

2011 Volleyball Schedule

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME/SCORE
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AUG. 20	RED/WHITE MATCH	NU COLISEUM	3-1 (W)
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MCM ELEGANTE LOBO CLASSIC

AUG. 26	NEW MEXICO ST.	AT ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.	3-2 (W)
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AUG. 27	NEW MEXICO	AT ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.	3-0 (W)
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SEPT. 2	COLORADO STATE	AT FORT COLLINS, COLO.	2-3 (L)
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SEPT. 3	ALBANY	AT FORT COLLINS, COLO.	3-0 (W)
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AMERITAS PLAYERS CHALLENGE

SEPT. 8	CREIGHTON	NU COLISEUM	3-0 (W)
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SEPT. 9	ST. MARY'S	NU COLISEUM	3-2 (W)
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SEPT. 10	WEBER STATE	NU COLISEUM	3-0 (W)
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SEPT. 17	IOWA STATE	DEVANEY CENTER	3-0 (W)
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SEPT. 21	PENN STATE*	NU COLISEUM	3-2 (W)
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SEPT. 24	OHIO STATE*	NU COLISEUM	3-1 (W)
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SEPT. 30	MICHIGAN STATE*	AT EAST LANSING, MICH.	3-2 (W)
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OCT. 1	MICHIGAN*	AT ANN ARBOR, MICH.	3-0 (W)
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OCT. 7	PURDUE*	NU COLISEUM	3-1 (W)
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OCT. 8	INDIANA*	NU COLISEUM	3-0 (W)
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OCT. 14	WISCONSIN*	AT MADISON, WIS.	3-0 (W)
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OCT. 15	MINNESOTA*	AT MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.	3-2 (W)
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OCT. 19	IOWA*	NU COLISEUM	3-0 (W)
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OCT. 22	ILLINOIS*	NU COLISEUM	3-1 (W)
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OCT. 28	OHIO STATE*	AT COLUMBUS, OHIO	3-1 (W)
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OCT. 29	PENN STATE*	AT UNIVERSITY PARK, PA.	1-3 (L)
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NOV. 4	MICHIGAN*	NU COLISEUM	7 P.M.
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NOV. 5	MICHIGAN STATE*	NU COLISEUM	7:30 P.M.
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NOV. 11	INDIANA*	AT BLOOMINGTON, IND.	6 P.M.
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NOV. 12	PURDUE*	AT WEST LAFAYETTE, IND.	6 P.M.
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NOV. 16	MINNESOTA*	NU COLISEUM	7 P.M.
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NOV. 19	WISCONSIN*	NU COLISEUM	7 P.M.
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NOV. 23	IOWA*	AT IOWA CITY, IOWA	6 P.M.
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NOV. 26	NORTHWESTERN*	AT EVANSTON, ILL.	7 P.M.
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NCAA TOURNAMENT

DEC. 1-3	1ST/2ND ROUNDS	AT CAMPUS SITES	TBA
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DEC. 9-10	REGIONALS		TBA
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(AT LEXINGTON/GAINESVILLE/HONOLULU/MINNEAPOLIS)

DEC. 15-17	FINAL FOUR	AT SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS	TBA
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* BIG TEN MATCH;

ALL TIMES CENTRAL, DATES AND TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE



**BROOKE
DELANO**

summer as well.

"She had some shoulder problems during the last month of last season, but she was still very effective," Cook said.

Delano can tell her shoulder is improving, but it's not completely healed just yet.

"It feels fine, but I still struggle with it at times," Delano said. "Shoulders, you take two steps forward and one step back with it. I can tell every couple of weeks I improve a little bit more or feel a little bit stronger or a little more confident.

"A lot of it is mental. I was out all spring and all summer. Mentally I think I'm getting more confident that nothing is going to happen, that it won't just rip again."

Cook said he knows Delano isn't at 100 percent yet, but he's hoping she can get fully healed

by the NCAA Tournament.

"She's doing well and we're managing it and she's getting better every week," Cook said. "That's how shoulders go. We're hoping she's 100 percent by December. That's how long it usually takes with shoulders."

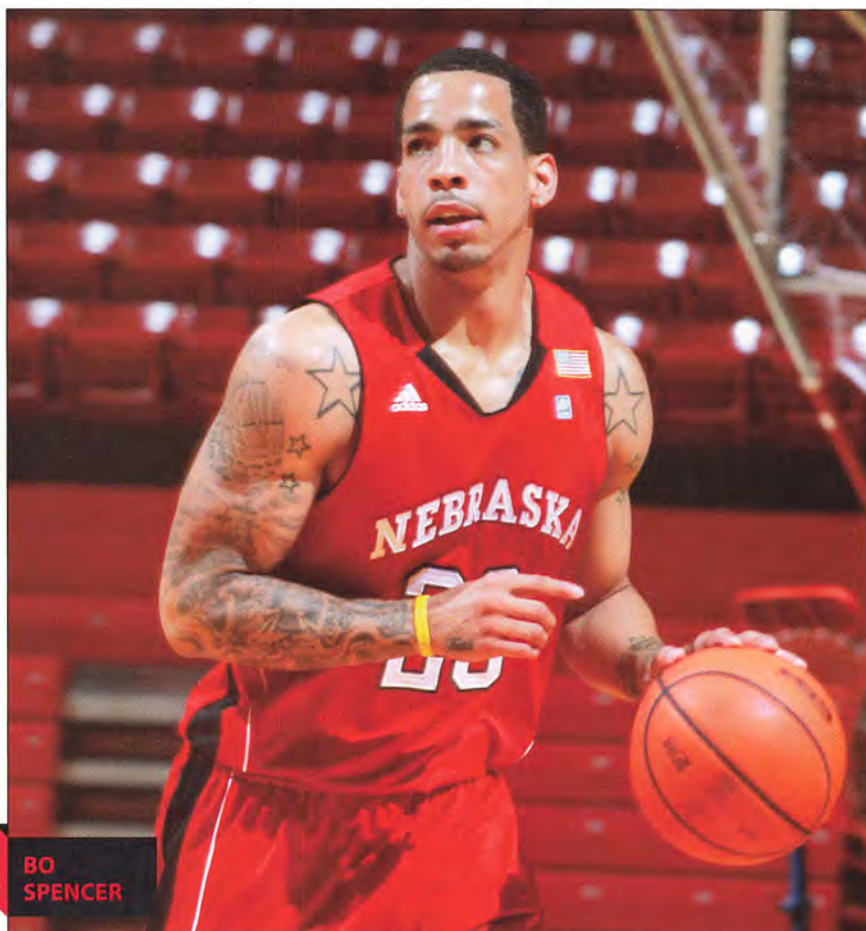
It also took a little time for Delano to find her best position with the Huskers. She has played all three front-row positions during her career at Nebraska. As a freshman she played rightside, middle and a little outside too. Now she knows the middle is the best place for her.

"I love the middle," Delano said. "You're quick and you have to be loud and talking all the time. I love to be quick. Just being everywhere on the court is great. You're getting touches on the ball and you're kind of everywhere. It's cool."

Around THE Horn

| BRIAN ROSENTHAL

THIS ISSUE BASKETBALL MEN'S GOLF GYMNASTICS SWIMMING WRESTLING



BO
SPENCER

PHOTOS BY SCOTT BRUHN

NU PICKED ELEVENTH

New conference. Same low expectations.

At least, that's the way 24 beat writers who cover the Big Ten Conference view the Nebraska men's basketball team.

The informal poll has the Huskers predicted to finish 11th in their inaugural season in the Big Ten, ahead of last-

place Penn State, and a spot below Iowa.

Nebraska was also picked to finish 11th last season in its former conference, the Big 12. In fact, the Huskers were annually picked to finish in the bottom half of the league, and usually obliged.

But even with four starters returning from a

19-win team, and with five seniors on the roster, Nebraska isn't catching the eye of its new conference brethren.

That's fine with Husker junior forward Brandon Ubel. Not that he necessarily agrees with the prediction.

"We're coming in thinking we have the talent level, at least, to

ANOTHER GOLD FOR BURROUGHS

Former Nebraska wrestler Jordan Burroughs won another international gold medal by winning the 74kg/163-pound title at the Pan American Games in Guadalajara, Mexico.

Burroughs won a pair of tightly contested matches in the semifinal and final rounds to become the first Pan American champion from Nebraska since Ryan Tobin captured gold in 1996.

Burroughs defeated Yurielki Blanco (Cuba) in the finals, 3-2, 3-2. Blanco finished second at the 2011 Pan American Championships and was a 2011 World Cup Champion.

be a contender, a top-five Big Ten-type team,” Ubel said. “But as Coach has been telling us, we’ve got to start believing that we’re that good. Until we start believing we’re that good, it can’t happen.”

That’s where Bo Spencer comes in. A senior transfer from LSU, he’ll fill the only vacant starting position on the team – at point guard.

“We need a different little swagger about us, and I think that’s something that Bo has brought to us,” Ubel said. “He doesn’t think anybody can stop him, and it shows on the court. It doesn’t look like anybody can stop him. He’s always aggressive. The more he shows that, it rubs off on people.”

Ohio State was picked to win the Big Ten, both in the informal poll and in the conference’s official media poll, which picked only the top three teams. Wisconsin was second in both polls, with Michigan State picked third in the official poll, and Michigan third in the unofficial poll.

That Nebraska isn’t highly regarded in its new league isn’t necessarily a surprise. The Huskers are in a 13-year NCAA Tournament drought and haven’t had a winning conference season since 1999.

Now, just as Nebraska is leaving the Big 12 in what

looks to be a down season for the league, the Huskers are preparing for a very seasoned Big Ten.

“One of the things that has kind of stuck out, looking at the different rosters maybe, is the number of returning players that’s in this league,” Nebraska coach Doc Sadler said. “In the past, if you were a first-team All-American, it was pretty much a given that you were going to go on and leave school.

“Well, I don’t think

that’s the case in this league. It looks like guys maybe stay around a little bit longer, so therefore the experience, I think, always is going to give you a chance to have a better basketball team.”

That’s why Sadler, despite five seniors and four returning starters on his team, doesn’t figure to have an advantage in that department – because many teams in the Big Ten are just as experienced.

Still, Sadler knows the expectations are for his

team to qualify for the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 1998.

“We need to get there,” he said. “If everything stays the way we’d like for it to, without injuries and making a shot here or there . . . then I think this team does have a chance to be a team that, when it comes March, can be a team that plays in the NCAA tournament.

“I mean, that’s our goal. At least, that’s one of them. And hopefully we achieve that this year.”



BRANDON UBEL

WOMEN'S GYMNASTICS

WINS PAN AM GAMES

True freshman Jessie DeZiel helped the USA women's gymnastics team win the 2011 title at the Pan American Games in Guadalajara, Mexico.

DeZiel, from Rogers, Minn., scored the highest mark of any of the competitors in the field in vault with a score of 15.125. Only one other gymnast, Catalina Escobar (Colombia), reached the 15-point mark in vault with a 15.075.

In the beam and floor competition, DeZiel finished with the highest score out of all the Americans –

13.275 in beam and 13.150 on floor exercise.

NU DEFEATS SDSU

Ten different Huskers earned wins in Nebraska's 193-99 victory over South Dakota State at the Devaney Center.

Lincoln Northeast graduate Payton Michaud won both the 1-meter and 3-meter diving competitions with scores of 265.95 and 290.40, respectively. Hayley Martin won the 50-yard freestyle (24.94) and the 100-yard freestyle (53.41).

Bailey Pons, Kelly Dunn, Rebekah Land, Shannon Guy, Natalie Morris,

Morgan Flannigan, Kristin Strecker and Ellan Dufour also had victories for the Huskers.

MEN'S GOLF FINISHES SEASON

Nebraska played in its fifth and final tournament of the fall season, finishing 12th at the Herb Wimberly Intercollegiate, hosted by New Mexico State.

Scott Willman fired a 1-under-par 70 in the final round, and Nebraska posted a 287 in the final round, marking the Huskers' best third-round score of the fall. Nebraska's 54-hole total of 884 was three strokes shy of its season best.

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2011 Nebraska Football Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
Sat, Sept. 3	TN at Chattanooga	2:30 p.m.
Sat, Sept. 10	Fresno State	6 p.m.
Sat, Sept. 17	Washington	2:30 p.m.
Sat, Sept. 24	Wyoming	6:30 p.m.
Sat, Oct. 1	Wisconsin *	7 p.m.
Sat, Oct. 8	Ohio State *	7 p.m.
Sat, Oct. 22	Minnesota *	2:30 p.m.
Sat, Oct. 29	Michigan State *	TBA
Sat, Nov. 5	Northwestern *	TBA
Sat, Nov. 12	Penn State *	TBA
Sat, Nov. 19	Michigan *	TBA
Fri, Nov. 25	Iowa *	11 a.m.

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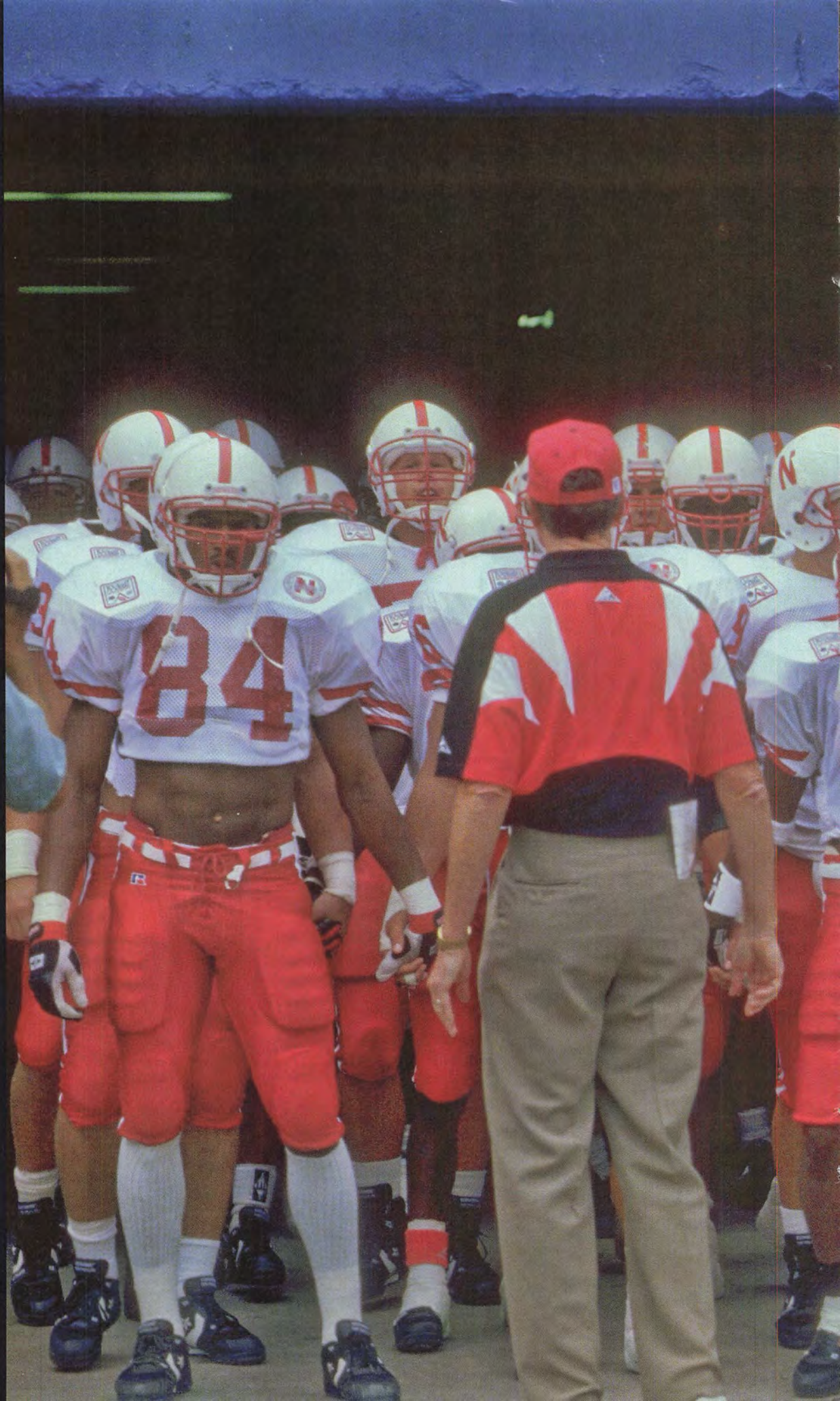
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FROM THE ARCHIVES

KICKOFF CLASSIC

Nebraska began its national championship run in 1994 with a 31-0 victory against West Virginia in the Kickoff Classic at Giants Stadium in the Meadowlands. The Huskers had played in the Kickoff Classic twice previously, including the first in 1983, defeating defending national champion Penn State 44-6. That was the first of four Nittany Lion appearances in the Kickoff Classic's 20-year run, the most by any team. Nebraska, which was tied for second-most, also defeated Texas A&M in 1988, 23-14. In each of the Huskers' three appearances, their quarterback was named the game's MVP: Turner Gill (1983), Steve Taylor (1988) and Tommie Frazier (1994). The Kickoff Classic was discontinued following the 2002 game because of a change in NCAA rules. The Kickoff Classic was established by the New Jersey Sports & Exposition Authority, succeeding the post-season Garden City Bowl at Giants Stadium. The bowl game lasted only four years because of poor attendance. Notre Dame defeated Maryland 22-0 in the final Kickoff Classic.







25,786

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CATCHING UP WITH TONY FELICI

BY RANDY YORK

Blackshirt predicts heated rivalry with Penn State

With all due respect to Nebraska's inter-division Heroes Game rivalry with Iowa, a former NU defensive end believes the Huskers' annual cross-divisional rivalry with Penn State will be more heated, more competitive, and, judging by his own least favorite experience, more controversial.

Remember the Nebraska-Penn State game in 1982? Nebraska defensive end Tony Felici does, and that 27-24 loss in State College – Nebraska's only loss in a 12-1 season – still stings 29 years later.

The week before the Huskers return to the scene of what Felici still considers a crime, the father of current Nebraska walk-on Joey Felici can't resist remembering the collateral damage from Joe Paterno's first national championship team.

"Their winning drive started with a personal foul penalty that no one could see or explain," Felici recalled. "Then, they had a third-down completion caught 2 yards out of bounds on a field that somehow expanded. And the one I hate the most – the winning touchdown on a trapped catch in the end zone."

According to Felici, certain Husker and Nittany Lion NFL teammates discussed that play years later, and the only answer that surfaced from the winner was: "It doesn't matter" whether the ball was caught or not – a statement considered a veiled confession via the fine art of omission.

Felici feels guilty opening up old wounds because he knows his coach, the legendary Tom Osborne, said then

and still believes now that massive disappointment, even when justice is not served, can benefit the people who experience it, accept it and find life lessons from it.

Felici says he's tried to do all of that and laughs at himself for still being unable to accept fully an opportunity lost because the teams played when

there was no such thing as instant replay. "If only we had then the technology we have now, Coach Osborne would have one more national championship," Felici said before giving it up, knowing full well that Penn State has had its own share of perceived injustices.

"That's why I think this Penn State rivalry will be bigger than any other Big Ten rivalry Nebraska has," he said. "There have been big games with national championships on the line already. There's a history there."

Not to mention a respect for each other because

"That's why I think this Penn State rivalry will be bigger than any other Big Ten rivalry Nebraska has.

There have been big games with national championships on the line already. There's a history there."

Penn State has a legendary coach and Nebraska has two modern-day coaches in the Hall of Fame. "I think the Big Ten is great for Nebraska," Felici said, "because they play the same type of football we do. They have character, work ethic, stability, great venues and passionate fans."

So what's the bottom line when this new annual rivalry launches Nov. 12?

"It sure would be nice," Felici said, "if Ben Cotton could catch a trapped ball that's ruled a touchdown on the game's last play, and then being unable to find indisputable evidence to reverse the call."



GAMES REMEMBERED | 1971 NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

Breaking the “type-cast”

Jerry Tagge unveils passing attack, completing 20-of-28 passes against Wildcats

NEBRASKA CAME OUT

throwing against Kansas State, at least compared to the Huskers' usual offensive approach. Coach Bob Devaney didn't want his team to be type-cast offensively going into its Thanksgiving Day showdown at Oklahoma. So he let quarterback Jerry Tagge pass early.

By the time Tagge left after three quarters, he had completed 20-of-28 passes for a season-high three touchdowns, with two interceptions. Two of the touchdowns were to Johnny Rodgers, who broke school and Big Eight Conference records for

touchdown catches in a season – 10.

The previous school record, nine, was set by Clarence Swanson in 1921. Missouri's Mel Gray set the Big Eight record, also nine, two seasons earlier. Rodgers finished the game with 10 catches for 125 yards, while Woody Cox had 108 receiving yards on four catches.

Nebraska scored on its first four possessions, on drives of 80, 94, 79 and 57 yards, to take control. By the fourth quarter, Husker fans were chanting “We're No. 1,” and Kansas State fans, those who remained, responded with chants of

“Oklahoma No. 1” and “Big Red No. 2.”

The Sooners rushed for 502 yards that afternoon in a 56-10 victory against Kansas at Norman.

Despite being held to 57 yards rushing, Kansas State managed to score more points than any Husker opponent had, also with a pass-oriented offense.

Quarterback Dennis Morrison completed 23 of 46 for 179 yards and one touchdown.

Linebacker Bob Terrio led the Blackshirts with 10 tackles and a blocked extra point.

NEBRASKA 44, KANSAS STATE 17

Nov. 13, 1971 • Manhattan, Kan.

Nebraska	14	16	7	7	--	44
Kansas State	0	9	0	8	--	17

(N) Johnny Rodgers 6 pass Jerry Tagge (Rich Sanger kick)
(N) Gary Dixon 2 run (Sanger kick)
(KS) Henry Childs 8 pass Dennis Morrison (kick failed)
(KS) John Georger 34 field goal
(N) Jeff Kinney 1 run (Sanger kick)
(N) Safety, Morrison fumble
(N) Woody Cox 56 pass Tagge (Sanger kick)
(KS) Don Calhoun 1 run (Childs pass Morrison)
(N) Rodgers 17 pass Tagge (Sanger kick)

Attendance: 42,300

DO YOU REMEMBER?

► During the week before the game, Michigan coach Bo Schembechler made disparaging comments about the two major polls, the Associated Press media poll and the United Press International coaches' poll. His Wolverines were ranked third in both.

► Also during the week before, Texas coach Darrell Royal called for the Southwest Conference to change its recruiting rules to allow personal contact with high school athletes before the final game of their senior season. The SWC rules were more restrictive than those of other conferences, and specifically the Big Eight. NCAA rules allowed such contact after an athlete's junior year.

► The Nebraska freshman team defeated Kansas State's freshmen 44-0 on Friday afternoon. Jim Walden coached the Husker freshmen in place of Jim Ross, who was at home recovering from a broken leg suffered in a sideline collision in the previous week's game.

CROSSWORD & TRIVIA

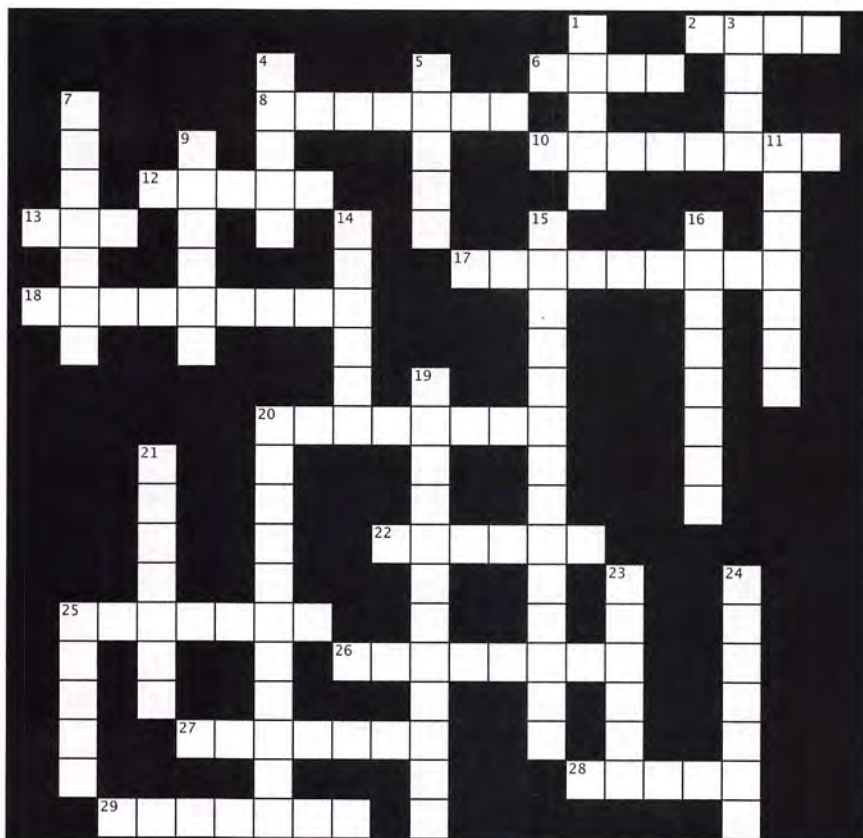
ACROSS

2. Penn State school color
6. Ex-Husker wide receiver now with Washington Redskins
8. Penn State's bowl after 2010 season
10. Nov. 19 opponent
12. Named Lou Groza Award semifinalist
13. Wears No. 99 (defense)
17. Nov. 12 opponent
18. Wears No. 63 (offense)
20. Ex-Husker defensive lineman now with Washington Redskins
22. Wears No. 58 (offense)
25. Intercepted pass vs. Michigan State
26. Wears No. 98 (defense)
27. Penn State head coach
28. Wears No. 11 (defense)
29. Backup center

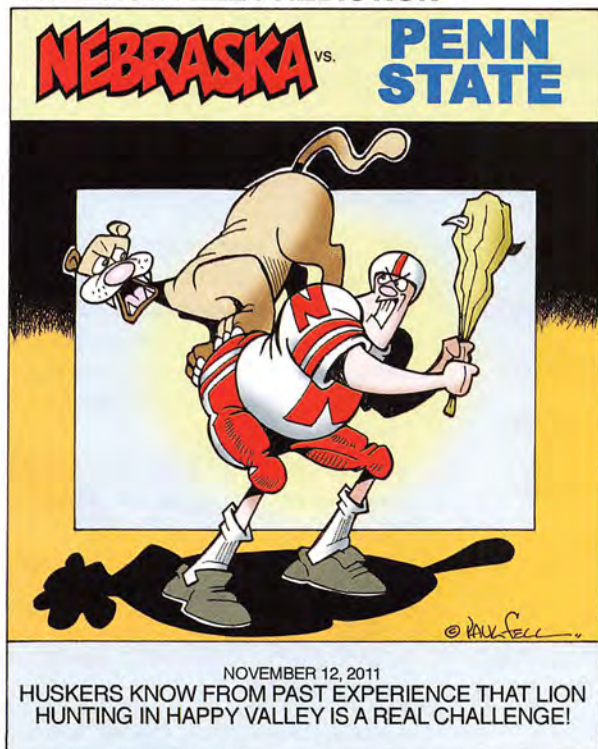
DOWN

1. Leading tackler vs. Michigan State
3. Wears No. 61 (offense)
4. Wears No. 78 (offense)
5. Named Butkus Award semifinalist
7. Ex-Husker offensive lineman now with New York Jets
9. Had 2 sacks vs. Michigan State
11. 1993 Butkus Award winner
14. NU's second Heisman Trophy winner
15. Penn State campus location
16. Wears No. 50 (offense)
19. Penn State nickname
20. Penn State Heisman Trophy winner (1973)
21. Had 1 carry for 39 yards vs. Michigan State
23. Wide receivers coach
24. Secondary coach
25. Number of Rex Burkhead touchdowns vs. Michigan State

Answers will appear in the Nov. 19 issue.



THE PAUL FELL PREDICTION



BRAIN BUSTER

CONSISTENCY: No fair checking the record book on this one. What Husker holds the school record for consecutive games with at least one pass reception? Four of the five listed here are at the top of the list.

Extra credit: Which one isn't?

A. Junior Miller

C. Nate Swift

E. Matt Davison

B. Johnny Rodgers

D. Terrence Nunn

Answer will appear in our next issue

OCT. 29 ANSWER: A. Trev Alberts, 1993

NOV. 5 SOLUTION



NU suffers setback in title hopes despite Martinez's efforts

BY MIKE BABCOCK

Had you seen Tim Marlowe's comments regarding Taylor Martinez without knowing the outcome of the Nebraska-Northwestern game, you probably would have figured the Huskers won.

"People are always doubting Taylor's arm," said Marlowe, a junior wide receiver. "You know, 'Make Taylor pass.' But I think Taylor showed the world today we can pass."

Martinez completed 28-of-37 passes for 289 yards and two touchdowns, without an interception. During one stretch, beginning in the second quarter, he completed 12 consecutive passes.

The streak didn't end until his first pass in the fourth quarter.

"He's getting better game by game," Marlowe said.

This isn't meant as a distraction from the matter at hand, which was Nebraska's 28-25 loss to a Northwestern team that managed to snap a five-game losing streak just the week before. Rather, it makes a point about the Huskers. You just never know what team is going to show up.

Martinez's passing gets criticized, and Nebraska wins. It gets praised, and Husker fans leave Memorial Stadium rubbing their eyes to make sure they read the scoreboard right.

Going back to Marlowe's comments, the problem was that Northwestern made Martinez pass.

"That was the most disappointing thing in the football game, our offensive line and our offense and the running game," coach Bo Pelini said. "I thought that was a match-up we needed to win."

And it was a match-up the Huskers should have won. They had with Big Ten's second-ranked rushing offense, going against the conference's 10th-ranked rushing defense. The Wildcats were allowing, on average, nearly 200 yards per game on the ground. Nebraska managed 122, on 35 carries.

That also was a factor in Northwestern's more than 8-minute advantage in time of possession.

"Obviously, that contributes to things defensively," said Pelini.

But the defense shared responsibility, as did special teams. "That's why I say it was a team loss. Everybody contributed to it," Pelini said. "There's no pointing the fingers."

"Everybody who played in that game should point the thumb."

To extend that image, the Huskers jammed a thumb into their collective



The Huskers jammed a thumb in their collective eye as far as getting to the Big Ten championship game in Indianapolis...

eye as far as getting to the Big Ten championship game in Indianapolis, a week after they moved to the front in the Legends Division after defeating Michigan State. Now, they'll need some help.

"We have three big games ahead, and we've just got to hope things play out right for us," said Marlowe. "The only thing we can do is handle our business and win out."

A week ago, hope didn't have to factor into the equation.

All things considered, Nebraska's defense played reasonably well through three quarters. Northwestern's first touchdown came on a 13-play, 80-yard drive. But its second touchdown was set up by a 41-yard kickoff return. The Wildcats ran 61 plays and had only 14 points to show for it.

They ran 17 plays, gained 150 yards and scored 14 points in the fourth quarter.

The final 15 minutes were the difference. "When the game was up for grabs in the fourth quarter, when it could have gone either way, they outplayed us," said safety Austin Cassidy.

At the beginning of the week, Blackshirts were passed out for the first time this season, and "to go do what we did today is embarrassing," Cassidy said. "You're not going to win very many games giving up 30 points, or however many points we gave up, (and) 500 yards of offense."

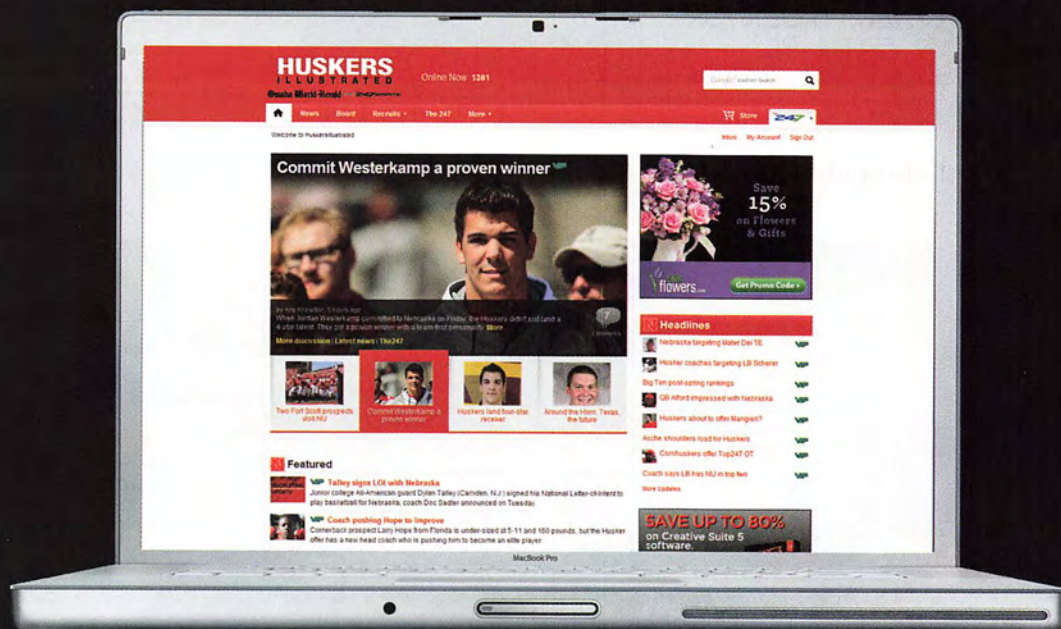
The exact yardage was 468. But such a total wasn't entirely a surprise. Northwestern's offense has shown it's capable of putting up numbers. So worst-case scenario, if the Wildcats did that, Nebraska would have to out-score them — not a stretch given how their defense had played.

But no one could have imagined that would mean relying on the passing of Martinez.

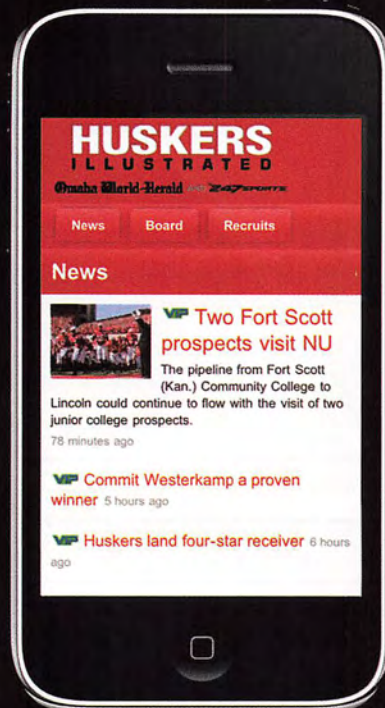
"Taylor did a great job today, really grew as a passer," said Marlowe.

Had you heard those words and not known the outcome, what would you have thought? **N**

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